

THE JOURNAL

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Sports Former Cal shortstop brings expertise to Albany/Berkeley softball team [C1]

Arts Berkeley's George Cleve has a mission: Mozart [C12]

El Cerrito councilman to move to Berkeley

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — City Councilman Mark Friedman is moving to Berkeley and will rely on other council members to represent him during his second term ends in November.

Friedman made the announcement at the end of Monday's City Council meeting.

He and his girlfriend had been looking to buy a home in El Cerrito, with no

luck. They had been outbid five times.

However, he was able to bid on a Berkeley home before it officially went on the market. Friedman said he's been moving for two weeks and would retain a dual residency — El Cerrito and Berkeley — if the council desired.

"If they feel there should be a full-time El Cerrito resident serving that position, I fully understand that and I'm willing to resign tomorrow if that's their will,"

said Friedman, after the meeting.

Friedman moved to El Cerrito from Colorado 15 years ago and was appointed to the council in April 1997 to fill out the remainder of Mae Ritz's term. He was elected in November, 1997 and reelected in 2001.

However, he has strong ties to Alameda County. Since 1999, he's been the executive director of First Five Alameda County, a nonprofit organization set up to distribute tobacco tax money to benefit programs for young chil-

dren.

From 1991 to 1999, he served as chief of staff for former Alameda County supervisors Don Perata and Wilma Chan.

He ran the 1998 Berkeley mayoral campaign of former City Councilman Don Jelinek.

Friedman acknowledged that there's speculation he will pursue higher office. He unsuccessfully ran for the state assembly in the 14th district in 1996.

He said he had no immediate plans to run but wouldn't rule it

out in the future.

"At this time I really don't have plans for that," Friedman said. "I really enjoy what I'm doing — helping children — and it's pretty consuming work. So I don't anticipate plans to run for higher office in the foreseeable future, and I'm pretty content with my political career, such as it's been."

Mayor Letitia Moore said she plans to place Friedman's move as an item for discussion at the



Mark Friedman

See FRIEDMAN, Page A12

GROWING PAINS



STANDING in the crowded booking room at the Albany police station, Police Chief Greg Bone makes his case about why the city and fire buildings need expansion.

Fact-finding field trip sparks housing debate

■ Controversial plan provides mostly for high-density residential zoning

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The Albany City Council opted to walk outdoors on a warm breezy afternoon to get a better understanding of the effects of potential new zoning on Adams Street and Kains Avenue, which run parallel to San Pablo Avenue.

Four of the five council members attended the "fact-finding" field trip flanked by city staff and four residents. Mayor Jon Ely was absent.

The trip started in the courtyard of the Albany Commons condominium complex, a tan building just south of Solano and San Pablo avenues. The group walked north on Adams Avenue to the Albany Bowl and then south to the Portland Gardens apartment complex at Portland and San Pablo avenues.

The council is in the middle of considering controversial recommendations from the planning and zoning commission regard-

ing new zoning on Kains Avenue and Adams Street.

The new zoning, hashed out after months of meetings with neighbors, provides mostly for high-density residential zoning along Kains and Adams.

The council will continue the zoning discussion at its Monday meeting, said Councilwoman Jewel Okawachi. The meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the City Hall council chambers, 1000 San Pablo Ave.

In the meantime, the council got a better sense of what it's dealing with during its Tuesday afternoon field trip.

The Albany Bowl property was a point of contention. The owner seeks zoning that would allow commercial or a mix of commercial and residential uses on the property.

Councilwoman Peggy Thomsen said she supported that idea. The property eventually could house a mix of shops and housing similar to Bay Street in Emeryville.

That's not Albany's style, said resident Maureen Crowley.

"This is a residential neigh-

See HOUSING, Page A12

Funding choice criticized

Residents say Albany will spend less on maintaining and expanding Hall and more on parks and recreation

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Residents complained at the last City Council meeting that too much bond money was being considered for

a City Hall expansion and seismic retrofit. Not enough money was going to parks and recreation programs, they said.

"It feels like a City Hall funding measure with some sweeteners put in," park and recreation commissioner Hugo Larman said last week.

It appears that city officials were listening.

Earlier this week, the city released an alternate recommendation for how \$13.5 million in bond money should be spent.

The recommendation increases the amount of money for park and recreation improvements to \$3.7 million, which includes \$300,000 already spent on Memorial Park Phase I improvements.

The recommendations decrease the amount for the City Hall and fire and police stations to \$4.53 million, including the \$50,000 already spent on the project.

The City Council will consider the recommendations at its July

26 meeting.

Voters approved the \$14.5 million Measure F bond measure in November 2002. At the time it was billed as a way to repair and improve recreational facilities, city streets and traffic.

In addition, it was meant to "prepare fire, police and other city services and buildings for earthquakes and other disasters through retrofit and replacement," according to the bond lan-

See FUNDING, Page A12

Chamber leader to leave Oct. 14

After nearly three years, James Carter, the executive director, will move on to other things

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — James Carter, the executive director of the Albany Chamber of Commerce for nearly three years, announced his departure from the organization.

Carter will be missed, said Chamber President Linda Lim, the president of the organization's 15-member board of directors.

"It's a great loss for us," said Lim. "James is a good manager for Mead Bank. James is a good leader. James is a hard worker. He's been a chamber leader in the last three years."

Originally from Southern Cal-

ifornia, Carter has spent time as a union organizer in Los Angeles, a truck driver, an author with his own publishing company, a freelance writer and publicist and a reporter for The Journal and the West County Times newspapers.

"I've done a little bit of everything," said Carter, 52.

He said he strove to increase business on Solano and San Pablo avenues. He organized the inaugural events "Summer Days Summer Nights in Albany" and "A Taste of Albany," which are in their second and third years respectively. He increased chamber membership 48 percent, in part by reaching out to immigrant restaurant owners, he said.

Winnie Yu, the co-owner of Celadon Fine Teas on Solano Avenue, said she is sorry to see Carter go.

"He was obviously doing a

very good job," Yu said. "Very frequently he had to do things on his own, without help from the community or business community or even other board members, me being one of them."

The June 6 event A Taste of Albany, Yu said, resulted in one of Celadon's busiest days of the year.

In addition to organizing, Carter got involved in city issues on the chamber's behalf.

He lobbied for increased parking limits on Solano Avenue. The City Council, Carter said, will consider a parking limit increase from 60 minutes to 90 minutes in September.

He unsuccessfully lobbied to have a San Pablo Avenue bus stop at Solano Avenue moved to prevent negative consequences to adjacent businesses.

He brought in high school and middle school interns and helped



James Carter

organize Solano Avenue graffiti clean-ups.

Carter said he considers the job of executive director one of community service.

"I took the job as executive director because I believe in our

See CHAMBER, Page A12



EDNA ROBERTS walks through her Lexington Avenue garden in El Cerrito.

Garden gives neighborhood a splash of summer color

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A one-bedroom duplex at Lexington Avenue and Blake Street was surrounded by weeds and trash when Edna and Dorji Roberts moved in nearly four years ago.

Today there's a large, colorful garden that covers much of the front patio, thanks to Edna Roberts' love of growing flowers.

Hundreds of potted flowers provide a colorful visual respite. There are sunflowers 5 feet high, love-lies-bleeding, lavender, larkspur, snapdragons. Roses fill hanging baskets.

Edna Roberts started the garden more than three years ago with orchids — she loves orchids, she said — and it gradually grew. It's become something of an ob-

session for her. One day she would like to open a nursery.

"She just loves it," said her husband, Dorji Roberts, who built a greenhouse in the backyard.

She begins the day with a cup of coffee, watering the plants and removing the dead ones and keeps it up pretty much all day, she said. She's out of a job, so it keeps her busy.

The alternative, she said with a laugh, is drinking Pepsi and watching television. That would make her fat. Gardening is good exercise, she said.

And people often stop by and tell her they appreciate it.

"They just like my plants, the garden, it's something that makes them happy."

INSIDE

KNIGHT RIDER

Also in Arts

■ Author finds the archetypes in 12-step programs, Buddhism. Page C12

At the Library

■ Let literary awards from around the world be your guide to great reading. Page A5



Martin Snapp

■ Andronico's grocery celebrates 75 years, generations in the business. Page A3

Police ReportsA2
CommunityFolkA3
OpinionA4
SportsC1
ArtsC3
CrosswordC6

INFORMATION FOR LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

\$13 million bond measure on ballot

This November, Albany voters will decide whether the Albany School Board should issue \$13 million in bonds to upgrade district schools and Cougar field.

If the bond measure is approved by a 55 percent majority, it's estimated that residents' homes will be taxed between \$25 and \$51 per \$100,000 of their assessed value.

Money from the bond sale will be used to modernize Marin and Ocean View elementary schools, MacGregor High School and Cougar or Ocean View fields.

Money will be used only for the "construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities," according to the resolution.

The resolution goes on to say that the money will not be used for any other purpose, including teacher or administrator salaries or other school operating expenses.

The Albany School Board voted 4-0 to place the Albany School Improvement Bond of 2004 on the November ballot at its July 13 meeting. Board member Charles Blanchard was absent.

El Cerrito

Democratic Club set to meet Tuesday

The El Cerrito Democratic Club will meet Tuesday, July 27, at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., at 7:30 p.m. The club will discuss November's state initiatives. For information, call 510-527-2194.

Softball league needs players

The El Cerrito Recreation Department is seeking adults of all skill levels for a softball league that will be held July 26, through Aug. 23. The cost is \$25 to sign up. Games will be held Monday evenings. For details call Chris Jones at 510-559-7005.

Water safety class to be offered Fridays

A water safety workshop for parents as well as children up to 5 years old will be held Fridays beginning today, and continuing July 30 and Aug. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the El Cerrito Swim Center, 7007 Mooser Lane.

The city's aquatic staff will teach basic water skills, including reaching, extension, throwing, wading, holding positions and more.

Parents must attend with their child. A bag lunch will be provided and the first 10 participants will receive free sunblock.

The workshops are limited to 20 children and registration is required. For information, call Nousheen Chaudry at 510-559-7002.

World War II forum set for Saturday

A public forum about Japanese and Italian Americans in Richmond during World War II will be held Saturday, July 31, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the East Bay Free Methodist Church, 5395 Potrero Ave. The forum is called "Not at Home on the Home Front."

The free event is sponsored by the Contra Costa Japanese American Citizens League and the American Italian Historical Association, Western Regional Chapter. For information, call 510-540-6809.

Richmond

Local artists featured in NIAD exhibit

National Institute of Art and Disabilities will open its new exhibit, "Past & Present Connection," on Monday, July 26.

The show will feature works by local print artists and NIAD print artists. The exhibit also will show a variety of printing techniques, including clay and linoleum monotypes, woodcuts and digital prints.

An artists' reception will be from 6-8 p.m. Aug. 19. The exhibit and sale, in NIAD's Florence Ludins-Katz Gallery, will continue through Sept. 10.

NIAD artists receive half of the proceeds from the sale of their artwork and the remainder helps fund the NIAD art program.

The gallery, at 551 23rd St., near Barrett Avenue, is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment. NIAD is six miles north of Berkeley, has plenty of free parking and is a 10-minute walk from Richmond BART. Admission is free.

NIAD promotes creative expression, independence and community integration for people with developmental disabilities.

For details, call 510-620-0290.

Berkeley

Adventure Playground marks 25 years

Adventure Playground, at 160 University Ave., in the Berkeley Marina, will celebrate its 25th birthday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. During the festivities, visitors may paint a mural, create a craft, meet past and present staff members, search for the oldest piece of wood, share dreams for the playground's future, and sing Happy Birthday at the ceremony scheduled for 3 p.m.

At Adventure Playground, children ages 7 and older can design, build and paint their own wooden play structures, such as forts, boats and towers, and climb around on ropes, nets and tires. Children must be actively supervised by an adult.

Admission is free. The fee for children to stay in the playground without active adult supervision is \$5 per child for up to three hours. Call 510-981-6720 or visit www.cityofberkeley.info/marina/marinaexp.

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ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Tuesday, July 13

■ **ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN** — At about 4 a.m. a resident on the 1600 block of Marin Avenue reported that someone was trying to open his front door and was last seen walking toward Sonoma Avenue. Officers stopped the 61-year-old Berkeley man and found he had a no-bail warrant out of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office for drug possession. He was arrested, cited and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — A resident on the 800 block of Adams Street reported that during the night thieves had stolen his silver '99 Honda.

■ **GRAFFITI** — During the night vandals painted graffiti on the west wall of the Albany Theater.

■ **DODGE VAN LOCATED** — Berkeley police located a blue '96 Dodge Van on the 1000 block of Pomona Avenue reported as stolen out of El Cerrito.

■ **NON-STUDENTS AT AHS** — At about noon police received a report from the Student Resource Officer at Albany High School on the 600 block of Key Route Boulevard that he was escorting non-students off campus.

■ **EGGINGS** — A resident on the 1000 block of Neilson Street reported that a group of juveniles threw eggs at his house as they walked toward Terrace Park. Officers contacted the group suspected of the activity and warned them about their behavior. The next day a resident on the 1400 block of Sonoma Avenue reported that during the night unknown vandals had egged his green Volvo that was parked on the street.

■ **MAKING THREATS** — Officers re-

sponded to the Albany Bowl on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a subject harassing customers, making serious threats and refusing to leave. They arrested the 20-year-old Albany man for making treats.

Wednesday, July 14

■ **UNLOCKED CARS** — During the night thieves stole loose change and CDs out of an unlocked silver Toyota Echo parked on the 600 block of Talbot Avenue. A resident on the 800 block of Talbot also had items stolen out of her unlocked blue '94 Mercury Villager.

■ **SCHOOL VANDALIZED** — During the night vandals painted graffiti on numerous areas at St. Mary's High School on the 1200 block of Albina Avenue.

Thursday, July 15

■ **PICKUP VANDALIZED** — During the night vandals shattered the front window of a red Ford pickup parked on the 500 block of Talbot Avenue.

■ **NON-STUDENTS ON CAMPUS** — At about noon officers responded to Albany High School on the 600 block of Key Route Boulevard on reports of non-students on campus near the gym entrance. Officers instructed them to leave and warned them not to be on campus.

■ **HOME BREAK-IN** — At about 3:30 p.m. a resident on the 800 block of Solano Avenue reported that someone had broken into his residence through the front door.

■ **LICENSE PLATE STOLEN** — Thieves stole the front license plate from a white '02 Volkswagen Golf

parked on the 900 block of Jackson Street.

Friday, July 16

■ **FIGHT AT BAR** — At about 1:30 a.m. officers responded to a bar on the 700 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a fight involving five to seven males. A check of the group found that one subject, a 24-year-old Pinole man, was intoxicated and unable to care for himself. He was arrested for disorderly conduct, cited and held to be released when sober.

■ **BRIEFCASE TAKEN** — At about 9 a.m. a resident on the 1200 block of Washington Avenue reported that thieves had taken his black briefcase that he had left on the sidewalk.

■ **LIQUOR THEFT** — At about 5:30 p.m. an employee at a liquor store on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that a group of three people had just stolen two bottles of alcohol and were last seen in a silver Ford Taurus and heading north on San Pablo Avenue. The vehicle was stopped on the 10800 block of San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito. A 22-year-old Richmond woman in the vehicle was found in possession of the missing bottles. She was identified and placed under citizen's arrest by a witness. She was arrested on suspicion of possessing stolen property.

Saturday, July 17

■ **ACURA LOCATED** — At about 5 p.m. officers located a blue '88 Acura Legend on the 700 block of Cleveland Avenue reported as stolen. The thieves had stripped the vehicle and stolen the license plates.

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Wednesday, July 7

■ **ATTEMPTED VEHICLE BURGLARY** — The window of a vehicle on the 2600 block of Carquinez Avenue was smashed between 7:45 p.m. on July 7 and 6:40 a.m. the next day.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — The stereo and tires were taken from a traded-in vehicle at El Cerrito Mitsubishi sometime between 9 p.m. July 7 and 6:45 a.m. the next day.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A green 1993 Honda Accord was taken from the 10900 block of San Pablo Avenue between 8 p.m. on July 7 and 8 a.m. the next day.

Thursday, July 8

■ **BURGLARY** — Four drills, three saws, a tile cutter and a set of wrenches were taken from a home on the 1400 block of Arlington Boulevard sometime between 9 p.m. on July 8 and 6:30 p.m. the next day.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — About \$1,100 worth of property was taken from a vehicle on the 2600 block of Yuba Street at 5 a.m. The window was smashed and the car alarm sounded, but there were no witnesses, police said.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1989 Toyota pickup truck was taken from the 7400 block of Terrace Drive between 8 p.m.

on July 8 and 8:30 a.m. the next day.

Saturday, July 10

■ **DRUGS** — A 38-year-old Richmond man was arrested on suspicion of being under the influence during a traffic stop at San Pablo and Knott avenues at 7:31 a.m. The man exhibited signs that he was under the influence of narcotics, police said. He was booked on suspicion of possessing methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and driving without a license.

■ **CARJACK** — A woman parked at a Pizza Hut was carjacked by a man with a semiautomatic handgun at 10:38 a.m., police said. The woman, an employee at the restaurant, was sitting in her 1996 Toyota Camry when the man approached her and asked if she knew what time the business opened. He then pulled the gun out of his waistband and demanded that she get out of the vehicle. The man entered the vehicle and drove south on San Pablo Avenue. The car was later recovered.

Sunday, July 11

■ **VEHICLE THEFT, DUI** — Police arrested a 19-year-old Richmond man on suspicion of possessing a stolen 2001 Pontiac TransAm at South 55th and School streets at 9:03 p.m. The man was also booked on suspicion of driving under the influence, carry-

ing a suspended driver's license and for providing false information. The passengers of the vehicle were released after police determined they were not involved in the theft.

Monday, July 12

■ **SHOPLIFTING, ASSAULT** — A 22-year-old Oakland man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting and then hitting a security guard at the Marshalls clothing store on San Pablo Avenue at 12:30 p.m. The man fled after he was confronted by the security guard and left behind the property and his ID. Police later arrested him on the 6500 block of Mooser Lane.

Tuesday, July 13

■ **ROBBERY** — Two men, one armed with a semiautomatic handgun, robbed another man while he was walking at Creekside Park at 9:45 p.m. The victim gave up his wallet, which contained \$180. The suspects then struck the man in the face and ran away, police said.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A white 1991 Toyota Camry was taken from the 2700 block of Del Monte Avenue sometime between 8 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A red 1994 Toyota pickup truck was taken from

■ **RACING BIKE STOLEN** — About 9:30 p.m. a resident on the 1000 block of Stannage reported that within the previous minutes thieves had stolen his Peugeot racing bike.

Sunday, July 18

■ **DUI** — Officers arrested an old Berkeley man for DUI at 11:30 a.m. while on the San Pablo Avenue.

Monday, July 19

■ **SPINNERS STOLEN** — At night, thieves stole the spinners from a black Chevrolet pickup parked on the 400 block of Kains Avenue.

■ **HATE NOTICES** — The business on the 1200 block of Avenue reported that two people had past week someone had past "hate notice" on the outside door of the business.

Weekly summary

During the week of June 21, cars towed four cars, responded to false alarms, attended to cases of animals, responded to reports of barking dogs and people who were locked out of homes or cars. In the domestic violence category, officers responded to one dispute, 18 civil disturbances and assisted. Officers stopped persons issuing 23 citations and warnings. Firefighters responded to five fire calls and other emergencies.

the 500 block of Norwell Street time between 3:55 and 4:10 p.m.

Wednesday, July 14

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A Nissan Maxima was stolen from the 6400 block of Hagen Boulevard sometime between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m. the next day.

Thursday, July 15

■ **ROBBERY** — Two men, one armed with a semiautomatic handgun, robbed another man while he was walking at Fairmount Avenue south of Fairmount Avenue at 8:20 a.m. The men punched him in the face and stole his pack.

Friday, July 16

■ **SHOPLIFTING** — A 50-year-old Oakland man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting alcohol at Albertsons at 8:45 p.m.

Saturday, July 17

■ **SHOPLIFTING** — A 48-year-old Oakland man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting from Target.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Should Your Business Operate As an LLC?

You've beaten the odds. Your business has succeeded and your profits are growing. But you struggle with the uncertainty of whether you are operating under the right legal form. Should you incorporate? Form a partnership? Perhaps you should consider a form of business that has become very popular: the LLC.

Limited liability companies (LLCs) offer a flexible alternative to partnership and corporate legal forms. While partnerships provide a seamless pass-through of income and losses to partners, they offer little protection of personal assets from creditors. Corporations, on the other hand, provide asset protection, but income can be taxed at both the corporate and individual levels. LLCs make available the best of both worlds: asset protection with pass-through of income and losses direct to the owners.

LLCs are not the first form of business to allow this. S corporations are used by small, closely held entities to achieve the same goals. But LLCs are preferred under certain conditions. For example, income and losses in an LLC can be allocated to members proportionately, thereby allowing for different ownership classes. S corporation income must be allocated to members based on ownership percentage. Also, unlike S corporations, LLC members can be individuals, trusts, or any other type of entity. This may provide more options in estate planning.

In the real estate industry, LLCs often get the nod over S corporations because it may be easier to increase basis and allow for the



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Deciding on a legal form for your business is not easy. Each form has its advantages and disadvantages. The best first step is to sit down with your financial advisor and share your goals. The proper form of business can be the launching pad you need to reach the next level of success.

Lori Risby has been in the financial service industry since 1987. She has worked at various levels of the industry, including Corporate, Government, and private practice. Currently, she assists individuals, families, and business owners in addressing financial security concerns now and beyond the working years. She also conducts financial planning and small business bookkeeping seminars throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Lori is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Financial Planner™, Registered Representative with SunAmerica Securities, Inc., and Registered Financial Advisor with the National Football League. Lori can be reached at 800.781.1181 or email, lorisrb@culenfinancial.com

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EDITORIAL

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Andronico's history as food for thought

CONGRATULATIONS TO 11-year-old Kendall Andronico and her sisters, 10-year-old Lauren and 3-year-old Grace. The upscale supermarket chain they'll be running is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

It started in 1929, when great-grandfather, Frank Andronico, who had come to the country from Greece, started an outdoor produce stand in Alameda.

Things were hard; it was the beginning of the Great Depression. But Frank built a loyal clientele by sticking to one thing: nothing but the best, quality and customer service.

Eventually, he saved enough to open a small market on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. As the new American, he wanted to give it an American-sounding name, so he called it And Shop.

It was to cause friction later with his son, John, who wanted to change the name to Andronico's. (It's an irony: The first generation to be as "American" as the name, while later generations wanted to get back to the roots.)

Eventually, they compromised: Andronico's Park Supermarket. Frank died in 1999, and the store which it became Andronico's.

Frank was the one who started the tradition of the store. It was John who took it to the next level: introducing modern marketing concepts that surprised his father, who didn't understand why John wanted to change the color of the store from avocado/burnt orange to red and get rid of the amazing line drawings of pigs on the wall.

He introduced many innovations that are now standard practices, including black display cases, wire shelving that allowed him to merchandise, and carpeting on the floor. He was also a gifted architect who designed each store to complement its community.

His passion was passed on to his son, Bill, the CEO. "No matter how hard he became, he called himself a 'cali-merchant.'"

He was a perfectionist who wouldn't tolerate a stale bread or a less-than-perfect piece of fruit. His constant was, "Why am I the one who has to find the rot-



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

ten cantaloupe in the pile?"

By the 1960s, he had opened a second Park and Shop on Telegraph Avenue, right in the path of the student protest demonstrations.

"He had a standing arrangement with the UC Police Department," recalls Bill. "Whenever there was trouble brewing on campus, they'd call him and say, 'Get ready, they're coming.' So he'd have time to nail plywood over the windows."

During one demonstration, a tear gas canister came flying through the window, filling the store with choking fumes.

"My father saw one of the checkout clerks starting to leave," says Bill, "and he said, 'Where are you going?' The clerk said, 'I'm going outside so I can breathe.' Dad said, 'We don't leave until the last customer has been checked out.' And he stood there and checked them out himself."

John died in 1999, leaving Bill to take Andronico's to another level.

Reflecting the sensibilities of his generation, Bill transformed the stores from 20th-century supermarkets to hybrids of 21st-century technology and 19th-century ambience, featuring flower stands, in-house kitchens, and artisan bread bakeries. Andronico's has become the culinary equivalent of the new "retro" ballparks like Camden Yards and SBC Park.

He now presides over 11 stores and 1,200 employees, stretching across the Bay to San Francisco and through the Caldecott Tunnel to Danville and Walnut Creek.

"My grandfather must be spinning in his grave over all the changes," he says, "but I think he'd be pleased that we still stand for quality."

And the next generation is waiting eagerly in the wings. Three years ago, when Kendall was only 8, she composed this jingle:

Welcome to Andronico's/Where shopping is so good for you/The food is so fresh and fun/Andronico's is number one!

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or email msnapp@cc-times.com.

Neighbors

FACES & PLACES

Prospective Cub Scouts and their families are invited to swim, socialize, and find out more about Scouting at a sign-up and summer swim party at the El Cerrito Community Swim Center, hosted by Cub Scout Pack 82, which serves Kensington and the surrounding area, on Saturday, July 24.

From 2-4 p.m., there's a free swim and social, and a chance to meet the families of Pack 82. From 4-5 p.m. there's a barbecue and planning meeting.

For more information on the barbecue and meeting, call Russell Cotteral at 510-525-1807 or Eric Cassin at 510-232-1087.

After a weeklong shake-down trip from Yosemite to Disneyland and back, Peter Leahy of Albany and his family are ready to tackle their main objective: a 20,000-mile road trip to Boston in biodiesel-powered vehicles.

Peter, 31, his sons Tupac, 7, and Trevon, 2, and his father, Harold Leahy, 75, of Dayton, Ohio, plan to visit all 48 continental states between now and election day, Nov. 2.

The purpose of the trip is more than just to sightsee. Peter Leahy, a single, gay father, calls the trip "a mixture of activism and family vacation." One of his purposes is to meet and speak with people across the country, face-to-face, hoping, he writes, "to awaken the nation's conscience about what is really at stake for their family and the country this election year."

Integral to the family's plans are the 36½-foot-long 1993 Fleetwood Pace Arrow and the 1999 VW Beetle TDI that will be towed behind until needed.

The motorhome and the car are both powered by standard diesel engine, but the fuel they will use along the way is biodiesel, derived from crops grown by U.S. farmers or recovered waste cooking oil from homes and restaurants.

The point, Leahy says: Biodiesel-powered vehicles are cleaner and have greater fuel economy — and are based on proven technology.

Leahy said he was inspired to plan the trip while recovering from life-saving surgery in the spring. He felt that he needed to help spread a message of unity and optimism, with the theme: We Can Do Better. His agenda is ambitious, and it includes advocating: clean air and water, and alternative fuels; pragmatic and humane foreign policies; expanded health care and health



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

FELICIA STRAND, 4, loads her plate with some of the 23 types of chocolate cookies offered during the Friends of the Albany Library's Chocolate Chips Cookie Tasting held Saturday July 17 at the library. Cookie categories were traditional chocolate chip, traditional chocolate chip plus other special touches, and non-traditional that had varying chips. Proceeds will go to buy children's books for Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps.

insurance; support for troops, veterans and VA hospitals; investment in quality public education for all; organizing to end homelessness, hunger and poverty; reform of the foster care and adoption system and restoration of fiscal responsibility and tax fairness.

The Leahys' trip is planned to visit national and state parks, key civil-rights locations, Revolutionary and Civil wars, to do outreach within states and communities with antigay ballot initiatives — and to see as many baseball games and

visit as many amusement parks as possible. They will homeschool the two boys along the way.

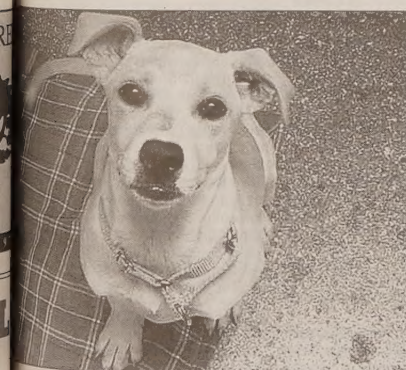
To follow the Leahys on-line on their journey, visit Caravan4Change.com.

Says Peter Leahy: "I and my kids are blessed with many great friends and neighbors — we are so comfortable living in

Northern California as it is a left-wing oasis in an increasingly right-leaning nation. We hope we can find some common ground and explain the issues of the day and our experiences to others who may not ever have met a family like us. We love America and know 'We Can Do Better' if we only try."

Find the Journal online at
elcerritojournal.com

OF THE WEEK



BERKELEY EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY

A Labrador retriever-pit bull terrier mix, 4½ months old. Sheuberant and will enjoy an active family with kids over 12 old. She will need more obedience training but already "sit," "down" and "shake hands." She may be available for adoption at the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.

At the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.

2 years; male gray, 1 year; female gray tabby, 7 months; male black and white, 5 years; male brown tabby, 1 year; several litters of kittens.

Adoption fee: cats \$100; dogs \$125 — including spaying neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Its hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Information: www.berkeleyhumane.org or call 510-845-7735.

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THE JOURNAL

"...were it left to me to decide whether we should
a government without newspapers, or newspapers
without a government, I should not hesitate a moment
to prefer the latter."
— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Classy gents step down

THE NEWS CAME this week that two men who have given faithful service to our communities will be leaving their posts.

One was elected, one not, but both showed over the years a dedication to making the cities of Albany and El Cerrito better places to live.

A change of address has led El Cerrito Councilman Mark Friedman to offer to step down from his City Council seat. He has announced he will leave up to his fellow Council members the decision on whether or not he should.

He was appointed to the City Council in 1997 to fill out the remainder of Councilwoman Mae Ritz's term in office, was elected in November, 1997 and reelected in 2001.

Friedman is leaving El Cerrito for the same reason we suspect many potential homeowners do: the competitive home-buying market. Outbid on several houses here, he finally was able to buy a house in Berkeley and will move there.

Among Friedman's accomplishments is the co-founding of the Alliance for Public Education, a group dedicated to improving West County schools.

With strong ties to Alameda County already, including having served as executive director of First Five Alameda County, a non-profit organization set up to distribute tobacco tax money to benefit programs for young children, and having served as chief of staff for former Alameda County supervisors Don Perata and Wilma Chan, Friedman will no doubt continue his path of community service in his new city of residence, whether or not it's decided to allow him to complete the few months left of his term in El Cerrito.

And in Albany, James Carter, the executive director of the city's Chamber of Commerce for nearly three years, has announced he will leave in October.

Albany has had few stronger advocates for its qualities of livability and small-town charm than Carter. He has been tireless in promoting the city as a unique place to live, not just another exit sign on the I-80 corridor.

Events such as the "Summer Days, Summer Nights in Albany" and "A Taste of Albany" have showcased Albany's depth in independent retail stores and restaurants, and brought the community out.

Though Carter's goal was to promote independent businesses, events such as these were important in a non-commercial sense, too.

While attending one of these Chamber-sponsored get-togethers, Albany's residents could come out and meet their neighbors on a cable car shuttle or in outdoor dining areas — complete with cloth-covered tables — signature features of events he planned.

While Carter was at his post, the Chamber's membership grew by 48 percent. And Carter was not hesitant about promoting business's interests, for instance advocating increased parking time limits on Solano Avenue, the better to encourage shoppers to park and shop longer.

In announcing his resignation so far in advance, he also is giving the Chamber a chance to find a replacement — which will not be a simple task.

Both Carter and Friedman have demonstrated class and generosity in their service to their communities, for which they should be recognized.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

House of Representatives

Barbara Lee: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, most of Oakland) 414 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; 202-225-2661. Fax: 202-225-9817; 1301 Clay St., Ste. 1000N, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-763-0370. Fax: 510-763-6538. E-mail: barbara.lee@mail.house.gov.

Ellen Tauscher: (D-10th District, El Cerrito, Kensington) 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 555, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925-932-8899 or 1034 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-1880. E-mail through www.house.gov/tauscher

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2086, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6083. E-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249; 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710; 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

County Supervisors

John Giola: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarrson@co.alameda.ca.us.

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington. E-mail: Oakport@igc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Siri: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

Stege Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegesd.dst.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District

217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd.

510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

CANDIDATES FILE FOR CITY COUNCIL RACE

YOU'LL NEED A DRIVER'S LICENSE, PROOF OF RESIDENCY, AND A BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

I DON'T HAVE THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE BUT I CAN PROVE I'VE BEEN BO



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Knee deep in hogwash

I read a letter to the editor whose theme was "Democratic hogwash," to which I respond: We are all knee deep in hogwash, thanks to our secretive and ideologically driven administration.

What really happened to the war on terrorism? Weren't we trying to catch bin Laden? Instead we invaded a country with no ties to religious extremists and put our troops in harm's way for no good or truthful reason.

If we had half the troops in Afghanistan that we have in Iraq, bin Laden would be in our custody and the world really would be a safer place. Instead, we have hundreds of dead soldiers, a huge debt, and the credibility of our country in the international community is shattered.

I wouldn't call Bush's policies hogwash; I'd call them idiotic, asinine, and a bunch of words that can't be printed.

Remove your head from the sand and get informed. This country depends on it!

Douglas McDonald
El Cerrito

Past time for Cheney to explain

What I am not hearing lately is anything at all from Dick Cheney about how the unexpected outcome of the war has affected his secret energy policy.

Obviously, Cheney and his secret panel of anonymous experts based everything on the assumption the war would be short and successful and that democracy would spread among a jubilant and grateful population waving flowers at us.

Obviously, that hasn't happened. Since we've got a different ballgame now than the one we envisioned, it behooves us to re-examine what Cheney promised and to whom, what deals he made, and with whom. What did he say; to whom did he say it? Lord only knows what he's gotten us into.

Also, I say it's time everyone in Washington got serious about this secrecy thing. We're talking about a matter of national security. Any further action based on an obsolete or out-dated policy could actually harm our domestic economy as well as our interests abroad.

Even if it takes impeachment to make it happen, it's time for Cheney to sing!

James Ritz
El Cerrito

New era in Sacramento

It seems our governor has truly brought a new era to the capital — name-calling, when he doesn't get his way.

Compromise is great when both sides are asked to do so. Why should social services and education be asked to take all the hits, when some new taxes could share the burden?

Betty E. Coates
El Cerrito

Open space measure is legal

I am writing to urge property owners to vote yes on the Contra Costa County open space assessment.

This measure will provide the necessary funding for parks, wildlife habitat, and open space which our county desperately needs. We can use this money to create a livable Contra Costa County for present and future generations.

I am most disturbed by the misleading arguments from opponents of this measure. They falsely argue that the assessment is a "new" way of funding open

space and parks. In fact, the assessment of property owners goes back a long way in California law.

It was used to fund the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy in the mid-1990s. Closer to home, the East Bay Regional Park District used this type of assessment to fund trail maintenance and for park district parks and activities in eastern Contra Costa County.

Opponents also claim that the process used for the assessment is undemocratic. I find this argument the most cynical.

The organizations that oppose the open space assessment as undemocratic were the very groups that wrote and fought to pass Proposition 218, which requires assessment districts to deliver actual, specific benefits, as an amendment to the state constitution. The county is simply using the process those opponents created. It is hypocritical for these same organizations to attack the voting process that they required be used for assessments in Prop. 218.

The fact is that the county is using a legal method for assessing property for a benefit that the property will receive under Prop. 218.

Because we will reap increased benefits over time from this assessment, I urge property owners to vote yes.

Norman La Force
El Cerrito

Instant run-off elections?

Maybe the greatest miscarriage of justice and failure of our so-called democracy, during the last four years, is that we have failed to institute instant run-off elections; especially for this coming presidential election!

Without it, all those voters who favor the values for creating a peaceful, inclusive, cooperative, and nurturing society, will feel guilty voting for Ralph Nader or any other candidate who seeks to free us from the shackles placed on us by "Lord Commerce." Or, they will be justified in casting their vote for what they hope will be the lesser of two evils.

Is there not time left to rectify this major blunder by instituting this simple, brilliant solution? What about demonstrating with a huge strike?

Personally, I like a money fast, no earning or spending any money for two or three days. Some of my friends have said they are nearly doing this already. Any other ideas?

Ron Greenstein
El Cerrito

Let's get along

I recently witnessed a disturbing incident at a local gas station.

Apparently, a customer felt he hadn't received proper change back, and the gentleman behind the counter was not having any of it. He was yelling at the customer, refused to count the cash in his drawer, and just tried to brush off the very polite and well-spoken customer.

Then he said to his customer, "That's

the problem with you people." Then one of the individuals involved aren't important, but it was obvious the clerk behind the counter felt it was definitely an

With all the hatred being expressed around the world due to religion, whatever, we don't need this kind of I'm going back to tell this clerk who won't have my business for awhile. I walked out with my empty tank un

Neighbors, let's get along. We all want to live our lives, have pleasant and take care of business.

Let's do it with kindness and compassion and a willingness to listen to another and to educate a neighbor might not be quite "getting" it.

Marie Trout
El Sobrante

Lack of leadership

When you vote in November, please remember this picture: President Bush flauntingly landing on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln on May 1, 2001. Then, under a banner proclaiming "Mission Accomplished," he pompously declared an end to "major combat operations" in Iraq.

The tragic reality is that since that famous declaration was uttered, more than 800 American service personnel have been killed during Bush's "non-combat phase of the war."

We've been told this presidential election is about leadership. I agree. For years presidential leadership has been glaringly conspicuous by its absence.

The Senate Intelligence Committee recently issued a scathing repudiation of the CIA's prewar assessment of Iraq's weapons capacity, critiquing the agency's effort as a "global intelligence failure."

With great care, however, the Republican-controlled committee shielded itself from culpability. All government agencies are accountable to the president; therefore, he must ultimately be responsible for their successes and failures.

Bush enjoys the successes. Responsibility for the failures he delegates to his subordinate.

Ronald Entwistle
San Francisco

Question everything

There's no question Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" is a left-leaning tale.

There is no big surprise the Bush administration is corrupt. Our political wards corporate criminals with power.

The bigger questions for me were: Where are the checks and balances? Where are the checks and balances? We are supposed to keep criminals out of public office? And why aren't any of the leaders, who supposedly speak for the people, standing up against this outrageous behavior?

The surprise for me is that this film, chock full of newsreel footage that has never been shown to the public — I thought the job of the media was to report the facts, not shield the eyes of the public from them.

Exactly who gets to choose what we see? The spin that comes before the film is directed just as precisely as any other. "Fahrenheit 9/11" was about more than Bush-bashing. If you care about having all the facts available to the public, you should watch it. But remember that you are being shown what they want you to see.

We should all be grateful we live in a civilization where this film can be shown openly and we should celebrate that every day.

Coleen Geoffrey
Berkeley

MAIL: 4301 Lakeside Drive,
Richmond, CA 94530

FAX: 510-243-3574

E-MAIL: journal@cctimes.com

Literary award honors books read worldwide

one of the week: all of us on the jury recognize this is a book of another or covering the widest range of potential for good, evil redemption. It reiterates, as we see in a while a book does, the purpose of literature."



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

The nominated books have to be written in English or translated into English (which was the case for this year's winner) and published within specific timelines.

The sponsors include the municipal government of Dublin, the private company IMPAC (Improved Management Productivity and Control) and Waterford Crystal, which sponsors the Award trophy.

When I looked at the 2004 list of participating libraries, I was impressed by its scope. Besides the San Francisco Public Library, the 100 public libraries include ones from South Wales, Australia, Denmark, Mexico, Canada and Kenya.

I also noticed that libraries in Germany, Hungary, Iceland and the United States nominated "The Lovely Bones" by Alice Sebold, a book I read recently. I love the idea that people around the world are reading the same books — it reminds of how we can be brought together by ideas and literature. That book didn't make it to the short list, but nine titles did, including "Any Human Heart" by William Boyd, "The Book of Illusions" by Paul Auster and "Caramelo" by Sandra Cisneros.

And, in case the idea of reading past winners appeals to you, here they are: "My Name is Red" by Orhan Pamuk (2003); "The Elementary Particles" by Michel Houellebecq and "No Great Mischief" by Alastair MacLeod (2002); "Wide Open" by Nicola Barker (2000); "Ingenious Pain" by Andrew Miller (1999); "The Land of Green Plums" by Herta Muller (1998); "A Heart So White" by Javier Marias (1997); and "Remembering Babylon" by David Malouf (1996).

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aclib.org or at the Albany Library.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

programs at the Albany Library, sponsored by the City of Albany, will be: 7:30 p.m. Irish puppet show, 7 p.m. 10: Pirate Pete with Puppets Theatre, 7 p.m. Albany's summer-long game, "The Secret of Pi Cove," runs through Aug.

Also at El Cerrito: The library's book club, Readers, will meet Tuesday, July 27, to discuss "The Secret History" by Donna Tartt. The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Copies of the current selection are available at the check-out desk.

The El Cerrito Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, is located at 6510 Stockton Ave. For more information, call 510-526-7512.

Family Storytimes for all ages are held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (except when special programs are scheduled) at the Kensington Library.

The Kensington Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1098. Phone: 510-524-3043.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Albany

Albany Senior Center — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 846 Masonic Ave. 510-524-9122.

Berkeley

Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, 1414 Walnut St. Kosher lunch Monday and Thursday. 510-848-0237.

North Berkeley Senior Center — 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, 1901 Hearst Ave. Class, "Strong Women: Writers and Heroes of Literature," 1-3 p.m. today. 510-981-5190.

St. John's Prime Timers — 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tuesdays, 2727 College Ave. 510-845-6830.

West Berkeley Senior Center — 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, 1900 6th St. Black historical film today. 510-981-5180.

El Cerrito

Christ Lutheran Senior Center — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays, 780 Ashbury Ave. Berna and Sylvia's big vacation is the topic Monday. 510-524-1050.

St. John's Senior Center — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays, 6500 Gladys Ave. July birthdays will be celebrated and there will be a sing-along with Ligo Britto. 510-237-3808.

The Open House — 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays, 6500 Stockton Ave. 510-215-4340.

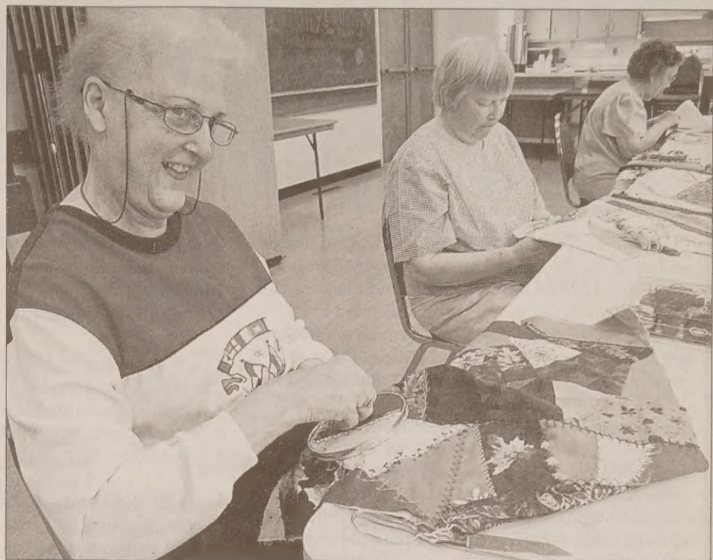
El Sobrante

St. Callistus Senior Activity Center — 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Mondays at 3580 San Pablo Dam Road. Bingo with Gerri McAllister will be Monday. 510-223-1153.

Women's Fellowship of the Salvation Army — 9:30 a.m.-noon Wednesdays, 4600 Appian Way. 510-262-0582.

Pinole

Pinole Senior Center — 2500 Charles Ave., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, and Wednesdays until 9 p.m. Breakfast buffet 8:30-11 a.m. Sunday;



EDDIE LEDESMA/STAFF

JEAN HEWETT, of Albany, Marjorie Pettyjohn, of Berkeley, and Florence Bryndza, of El Cerrito, work on their crazy quilts at a class at the Albany Senior Center on Wednesday, July 21. The class is taught by artist M.J. Schuppert Wilson, of Walnut Creek. Crazy quilting, a freestyle form of the traditionally structured quilting method became popular in the late 1800s.

\$5 adults, \$3 children younger than 12. No reservations needed. Ballroom dancing to music by Manny Gutierrez 8-11 p.m. July 30; \$8 includes refreshments. 510-724-9800.

Richmond

Senior Adult Activity Center — 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesdays at First Presbyterian Church, 34th Street and Barrett Avenue. Tuesday, there will be a mini white-elephant sale, a movie and blue plate special lunch. 510-234-0954.

Richmond Senior Drop-In Center — 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, 2525 Macdonald Ave. Bingo will be 1 p.m.

Sunday. 510-307-8087.

The Annex Senior Center — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, 5801 Huntington Ave. Sing-along today. 510-620-6812.

Neighborhood House of North Richmond Seniors — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, 515 Silver Ave. 510-232-3511.

Booker T. Anderson Jr. Senior Center — 960 So. 47th St. Walking for health 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Mercy Brown Bag program today. 510-620-6816.

San Pablo

San Pablo Senior Adult Center —

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, 1943 Church Lane. 510-215-3095.

All seniors

Berkeley Gray Panthers — 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, 1901 Hearst Ave. "Creating Social Change" is the topic. 510-548-9696.

Mostly Seniors Dance — Eagles Hall Aerie 3028 (back door), 14789 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo. The Bobcats play music of the 1940s and '50s, for listening and dancing, 1:30-4 p.m. Fridays. All ages welcome; voluntary donations. 510-233-4415.

Refuting conclusions of boomer retirement study

MAKING the rounds in the media is the claim from a newly updated AARP survey that 80 percent of baby boomers are planning to "work" in retirement. Don't believe that for a minute.

My bet is that the percentage of boomers choosing to work for pay in retirement — for a significant number of hours per week and for a significant number of retirement years — will be down near the 15 percent to 20 percent it is now for current retirees.

And I think I can disprove that 80 percent figure pretty quickly.

Here's the question that AARP asked 1,200 nonretired, baby boomer Americans ages 38-57: "Thinking about your employment status in later years, which of these (following answers) best describes what you think you will be doing when you retire?" And here are AARP's answers that are to be picked from in this survey conducted via phone conversations, with the percentages picked for each answer in parentheses:



GEORGE FULMORE
The Art of Retirement

- 1) "Not work at all" (20 percent)
- 2) "Retire from your current job/career but work full time for pay doing something else" (7 percent)
- 3) "Work part-time mainly for needed income" (25 percent)
- 4) "Work part-time mainly for interest or enjoyment sake" (30 percent)
- 5) "Start your own business or work for yourself" (15 percent)
- 6) "Other or Don't Know" (4 percent)

Do you see what is wrong here? The 80 percent comes from the sum of all the answers except for the first one. But, for answers three through five, there is no time frame, no details. Do responders plan on working for a year or two only?

10 hours a week? 20? 15? 5? Would these people work at a job they hated? And what is "work" anyway? Does it not include volunteer "work"?

None of this is explained in the survey answers. Also, simply changing the third answer to "Work part-time at a paid job, 20 or more hours per week, for most of my retirement because I will have no choice but to do so" would, I believe, be enough to change significantly the percentage of those picking that answer.

And questions three through five are like asking 4th-graders if they plan on eating peanut butter sandwiches when they grow up. It's meaningless.

There is no way to hold people to their answers or to take them seriously. I think AARP intends for the survey to come out with a high percentage of

boomers saying that they will "work" in retirement.

Why? First, AARP neither acknowledges nor endorses traditional, kick-back retirement. It seems to have little use for it. Second, AARP is desperately seeking increased membership from baby boomers. It's hoping to find meaningful connections.

Third, the survey can be a good way to get some free publicity.

Bottom line: When you see the 80 percent figure for baby boomers in the media, my advice is to ignore it or take it with a big grain of salt.

George Fulmore teaches the course "The Art of Retirement" in the Mt. Diablo Adult Education program. Reach him at ArtoRet@aol.com.

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Prime Life In Our Neighborhood

Nightingale Nursing

Serving the East Bay Since 1987

Nightingale Nursing, a local nurse-owned home care agency in its 17th year of business, serves East Bay clients from offices in San Leandro and Pleasant Hill. The company's success has been attributed to its nursing and business philosophy, which emphasizes genuine caring, personalized attention, and a commitment to serving the needs of the community.

In August, on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Nightingale Nursing will host "Prime Time Wednesday", a free informational series for seniors, adult children, and caregivers. The series will be held at the Nightingale Nursing Education Center, 101 Callan Avenue, San Leandro (at East 14th Street, next to Wells Fargo Bank). Free blood pressure checks and refreshments will be offered. Dates and topics are as follows:

- 8/4 - The new Medicare prescription drug program.
- 8/11 - Resources for seniors on the internet.
- 8/18 - Pets and seniors
- 8/25 - Practical tips for caregivers

Nightingale Nursing offers a uniquely broad range of services, including Private Duty Custodial Care (San Leandro and Pleasant Hill); a licensed Home Health Agency (San Leandro); and a licensed senior residence (Castro Valley). For more information about Nightingale Nursing's services, call (510) 357-4222 or (925) 685-5577.

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High-quality, compassionate care is the hallmark of *Comfort Keepers*. Our caregivers are carefully chosen, trained and supervised on an on-going basis. They are thoroughly screened for criminal and abuse records, past employment, driving records and credit reports, bonded and insured (including Worker's Compensation) so any liability is ours, not yours.

Comfort Keepers maintains over 400 offices nationwide, including coverage throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Call us at 510/482-8700 for a free in-home consultation. We'll discuss your specific needs, set up a schedule that meets your budget, and reaffirm the old adage: *There's no place like home.*

Chaplain Services Play an Important Role at Mercy Retirement & Care Center

Spiritual care services at Mercy Retirement & Care Center assist residents, their families and staff with life issues that often accompany aging or diminishing health. Spiritual support can be important at any age, but especially for aging adults who face more challenges. The chaplains at Mercy are an integral part of our community's response to those challenges. "The spiritual side of life is an important one," notes Sister Janet Rasano, Chaplain. "We are here to help residents transition to their new home, help counsel on a particular issue, involve ourselves in the daily activities and just be there to listen and lend support," continued Sister Janet. Finding creative ways to resolve issues, finding new meanings in life or working through difficult times, sometimes the order of the day. Sister Liz, the Center Chaplain, has created the "Compassionate Touch Program" where a licensed massage therapist provides massage services as one effective tool to reduce stress and relaxation of our residents. The Spiritual Care Services are part of the program offered at Mercy and originates from their mission to serve and enrich both the physical and spiritual well being of their residents. Mercy has four chaplains on staff who are available to provide services to the residents, including grief counseling to both family members and staff. For more information on the chaplain services at Mercy Retirement & Care Center, call 510-534-8888.

Lake Park Retirement Residence

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Elder Care Alliance Communities

Elder Care Alliance is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of Burlingame and the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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Prime Life In Our Neighborhoods

Piedmont Gardens... Just Off the Avenue, Just Right for You!

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Summer Specials are available on selected apartments. Call Kathy Lutz, 510-596-2600 for more information and to schedule a tour.

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Seniors and their families are invited to visit The Berkshire, an 80-unit community (including a separate secured Alzheimer's and dementia care program), currently the only assisted living facility of its type in Berkeley.

One of the many things that sets the community apart is its beautiful garden areas. Every ground-floor unit opens to one of several gardens, including one set aside for the memory care area, while all second-story units feature private balconies. The grounds also include a court of stately magnolia trees.

The Berkshire features a large reception area/living

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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Ann Fields, 1516 Oak St., Alameda, CA 94501; e-mail them to afields@cctimes.com or fax them to 510-748-1680. Call 510-748-1683 if you have questions.

Children

■ **Habitat Children's Museum** presents puppeteer Nick Barone performing "Rex Thunderbird's Wild West Review" as part of the Let's Go Camping Night celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. on July 29. Storytelling, singalongs, and s'mores will be enjoyed around a pretend campfire. Children can also pitch a tent, make binoculars in the Art Studio, and take a "hike" as part of the festivities. Call 510-647-1111 or visit www.habitat.org for more details. The museum is located at 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley.

■ Check out books from the **Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library**. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. 848-0237.

■ El Cerrito offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3½ years meets Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. 215-4371.

■ The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821. Classes

Class

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** in Berkeley offers classes Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Classes include exercise, ceramics, copper enameling, wood working, weaving, creative writing, and tap dancing (Thursdays). Classes are ongoing and always welcome new members. There is no charge other than materials. "Seniors" over 50 are welcome. Call 510-845-6830.

■ **TOPS** (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), Chapter 1294 meet 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays at the First Presbyterian Church, 3415 Barrett Ave., Richmond. Details: 510-235-0490, or 510-233-0318.

■ **Contra Costa Civic Theatre**, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito, offers theatre classes and seminars for children youth and adults throughout the year including summer camps, stage craft seminars, after-school programs and theatre techniques and improvisation. All classes and seminars are taught by professionals. Details: 510-524-9132 or visit www.cctc.org.

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** in Berkeley offers classes in ceramics, copper enameling, wood working, weaving, creative writing, and tap dancing (Thursdays). Classes are on-going and always welcome new members. Seniors over 50 are welcome. Tuesdays at 9:30, St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. Details: 845-6830.

■ **South Berkeley Senior Center** 2939 Ellis St., offers a free aerobics, stretching, strengthening fitness class for adults 55+. The class is taught by Naomi Puro. For more information, call 510-981-5170.

Community

■ Sample some 35 varieties of tomatoes at the Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market free Tomato Tasting, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2-7 p.m. Derby Street at Martin

Luther King Jr. Way. Details: 510-548-3333, www.ecologycenter.org.

■ **"Not at Home on the Home Front: A Public Forum on Japanese Americans and Italian Americans in Richmond During World War II"** takes place Saturday, July 31, from 3-4:30 p.m. at East Bay Free Methodist Church, 5395 Polero Ave., El Cerrito. Speakers: Lawrence DiStasi, Donna Graves and Lynne Horuchi. The event is free. Details: 510-540-6809.

■ **The United Nations Association and UNICEF Center** (UNA-USA East Bay Chapter) invites you to its 40th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, July 31, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Music, dance, food and friends! 1403 B Addison St. (in the University Avenue Andronico's parking lot between Sacramento Street and Acton Street) Berkeley. A special goodbye to Mary Lee Tramples, retiring Center Director, and a warm welcome to Enver Rahmanov, new Center Director. 510-849-1752.

■ **University of California Botanical Garden** at Berkeley, 200 Centennial Drive, extends its usual daily hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to its summer twilight hours: Open until 8 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. The Twilight Tour series takes advantage of the extended daylight and longer garden hours. Enjoy a different tour every Wednesday and Thursday through Aug. 12. Pay for three different tours, get the fourth tour free. Admission: \$3 for adults \$2 for seniors 65, \$1 for Children (3-18). Free to members, UC Students, UC Faculty and staff and children under 3. \$2 for Cal Alumni Association members. Free to the public every Thursday. Details and tour registration: 510-843-2755, www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

■ Prospect Sierra School, 960 Avis Drive in El Cerrito, offers "Community Country Dance." Circle, circle, and couple dances from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. An intro class is offered at 7:30 p.m. All dances are done to live fiddle music and prompted by caller, Kirston Kohls. No partners are required. Beginners are welcome. Cost is \$10. Wear clean, no marking shoes. For more information, call 510-233-7929.

■ **The Berkeley City Club** and the Landmark Heritage Foundation, are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the legacy of Julia Morgan. Take a free docent-led tour of the Berkeley City Club on the fourth Sunday of each month except December, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Tours are free; donations are welcome. The Berkeley City Club is located at 2315 Durant Avenue (two blocks west of Telegraph Avenue). For group reservations or more information, call 510-848-7800 or 510-883-9710.

■ **Charcot Marie Tooth** support group meets quarterly from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Albany Library, 1247 Marine Ave. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. For more information, call Gail Whitehouse at 408-425-5629.

■ **Berkeley Neighborhood Computers**, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netval.net.

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

■ **TOPS** (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), Chapter 1294 — 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursdays. First Presbyterian Church, 3415 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-235-0490, 510-233-0318.

■ **Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services** presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 644-8736.

■ **"The Unconventional Cabaret"**, an evening of music and comedy beyond the mainstream takes place Sunday, July 25, 7:30 p.m. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Featuring Jon Fromer, Carol Denney, the Deadly Poets Society, members of Folk This!, Open Mic Legends and a surprise appearance by a leading Republican politician. Benefit for Laborfest. Admission \$8-12 sliding scale. Details: 415-431-8485.

■ **Malathi Iyengar and Rangoli Dance Company** presents **Sacred Geometry and Dances of India** at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, Monday, Aug. 1, at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$12 general, \$20 donor. 925-798-1300.

■ **Café De La Paz**, 1600 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley, presents **Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos** in Pasión Flamenca, Friday, July 23, at 8 and 10 p.m. with renowned artists Félix de Lola, Jason McGuire "El Rubio." Dinner optional for both shows. General admission: \$12 with a one-drink minimum. Preferred seating: \$20 with a one drink minimum. Tickets: www.cafedelapaz.net or 510-843-0662.

■ **Learn easy international folk dances**, fun for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience needed. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2, kids \$1. Details: 525-1130.

■ **Friday Night Folk Dancing:** 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave., \$4; call 525-1542.

■ **Family Folkdancing** takes place the third Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Details: 632-3713.

■ **Swing Dance Classes!** Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Workshop Studio, 2586 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. Details: Michael Maragino at 528-7858.

■ **The Free Speech Movement Cafe** at the Moffitt Undergraduate Library, UC Berkeley presents "The Legacy of Social Protest — We Hold The Rock" an exhibition of the "Alcatraz Indian Occupation" featuring photographs by Ilka Hartmann and Michelle Vignes. Text by Troy R. Johnson, PhD. Coordinated and curated by Harold Alder. Through September. The Free Speech Movement Cafe, is wheelchair accessible. This is the fourth exhibition in a series dealing with free speech, civil rights, and social protest movements of the '60s and '70s in California. Sponsored by the Bancroft Library.

■ **The Free Speech Movement Cafe** at the Moffitt Undergraduate Library, UC Berkeley presents "The Legacy of Social Protest — We Hold The Rock" an exhibition of the "Alcatraz Indian Occupation" featuring photographs by Ilka Hartmann and Michelle Vignes. Text by Troy R. Johnson, PhD. Coordinated and curated by Harold Alder. Through September. The Free Speech Movement Cafe, is wheelchair accessible. This is the fourth exhibition in a series dealing with free speech, civil rights, and social protest movements of the '60s and '70s in California. Sponsored by the Bancroft Library.

■ **Berkeley Adult School** offers ceramics classes from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesdays at the St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave. Classes are free, materials and firing charges are not. Lunch is offered at a minimal charge. For more information, call Diana Bohn at 525-5497.

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** Senior Center in Berkeley offers classes in exercise, hand-built ceramics, copper enameling, wood working, weaving, creative writing and tap dancing. There are speakers on matters of current interest and travel slide presentations once a month. Classes are on-going. New members and seniors over 50 are always welcome. Lunch and friendly conversation are offered at a minimal charge. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley. Call 845-6830 for time and schedules.

■ **Beginning Internet Workshops** take place at the St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave. Classes are free, materials and firing charges are not. Lunch is offered at a minimal charge. For more information, call Diana Bohn at 525-5497.

Film/dance/stage

■ **Stage Door Conservatory** presents 25 talented local teenage actors performing "Annie" Aug. 13, 14 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tickets are sliding scale: Adult: \$15-20 (age 21-64); child: \$7.50-15 (age 3-14); student: \$10-15 (under 21); senior: \$10-15 (over 65). Tickets available at the door.

■ **Contra Costa Civic Theatre**, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito, presents "My Fair Lady" Lerner and Loew's "lovely" musical based on Shaw's "Pygmalion," through Aug. 14 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and selected Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$12-20. Contra Costa Civic Theatre, (510) 524-9132. www.cctc.org.

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Brother act

A FUND-RAISER tonight benefiting Berkeley Jazzschool community outreach programs features the legendary Hoot Brothers (Jimmy, Percy and Albert), whose collaborative years extend from the Modern Jazz Quartet to Miles Davis, Coltrane and Dizzy Gillespie. The trio will be interviewed by Area jazz producer Orrin Keepnews at 8 p.m., then perform accompanied by pianist Jeb Patton. The fund-raiser begins tonight with wine and snacks, followed by the discussion concert. The event is at a private amphitheater on Cowardin Kensington. Reservations are required. Tax-deductible donations \$150. Contact 510-845-5373 or www.jazzschool.com.

place at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the Internet mouse clicks, email, web searching, and the library's on-line catalog and databases. Classes are free of charge. Alternate Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 to sign up.

■ The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., offers free, ongoing chess instruction Tuesdays, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The lessons range from fundamental to advanced topics, and also casual play. This program is led by David Pruess, who holds the Senior Master title and is one of the top chess players and teachers in California. All levels are welcome and chess sets are provided. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

■ **Folkdance classes**, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library). Simple, clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (pro-rated fees apply), \$8 for drop in session. Details: Mel Harte, at 848-5289 before 9 p.m.

■ **Assets Senior Employment** offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Earn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Details: 238-3554.

■ **Julia Morgan Center for the Arts**, 2640 College Ave., offers family-friendly program classes, workshops and activities taught by professional teaching artists, all aimed at bringing arts participation into everyday lives. Details: 845-8542 or www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **The Berkeley Adult School** offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be used to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and introductory and advanced computer classes. Details: 644-6130.

■ **Berkeley Community Media**, Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley

See CALENDAR, Page

Meetings/lect

■ Ecology Center, 2530 San Francisco Ave., hosts a free discussion on "Water? Protecting the World's Water?" from Corporate Takeover on Aug. 19, from 7-9 p.m. With William Beck and John Gilder of Public Water for All Campaign. 510-

See CALENDAR, Page

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Calendar

FROM PAGE A8

■ **One Lively Evening With Paul Krugman**, in conversation with Larry Bensky, takes place Friday, Aug. 13 at 8 p.m. at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, 1781 Rose St., Berkeley. Tickets: \$15 advance, \$20 door. Details and tickets: 510-848-6767, ext. 611 or www.kpfa.org, or available at East Bay Independent bookstores: Black Oak, Cody's (both stores), Diesel a Bookstore, Global Exchange Store, Pegasus (both stores), Pendragon, Walden Pond. Krugman, Professor of economics and international affairs at Princeton University, writes a column that appears twice a week in the *The New York Times*. It is the first regular Op-Ed column devoted to economics, business and finance.

■ **"Spirituality in Daily Life"** by Arnaud Maillard, an introduction to various methods to apply to bring a sense of spirituality into daily life, takes place Saturday, Aug. 21, 3 p.m. at Dharma Publishing, 1510 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Aspects include: Caring for ourselves and the environments we live in; Bringing out the best in us and in others and overcoming difficulties; Living a life that is worthwhile now and in retrospect. Admission: suggested donation for the lecture is \$10.

■ **East Bay Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH)** meet from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 26, at the Kaiser Permanente Hospital, 3900 Blvd., Oakland. Enter on the Howe Street, East entrance. For more information and to confirm, call 510-531-7444.

■ **The Berkeley Camera Club** meets every Tuesday evening, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Don, 510-525-3565 or www.berkeleycameracub.org.

■ **Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung** classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$5. 268-4995.

■ **Learn computer applications for the "working" world** Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint. Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. 237-0840 or www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rop.

■ **Powerhouses**, a ski, snowboard and social club meet the second Tuesdays, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Oakland Hilton, Amelia restaurant, 1 Hegenberger Rd., and fourth Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m. at Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-769-7669 or visit the Web site at www.powerhouses.com.

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meet Tuesday evenings, 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 510-525-3565 or visit the Web site at www.berkeleycameracub.org.

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** meet on Tuesday mornings at 2727 College Ave. Sharon Stalkfleet will speak about her ministry to four local nursing homes at 11 a.m. Dec. 16. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call 510-845-8830.

■ **Albany Library**, 1247 Marin Ave., presents poetry events: First Thursdays include Open Mike and Featured Poet sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. Second Wednesdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops, for all ages. Second Saturdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops for grades 4-8. All three events are free and on-going. Light refresh-



2 more nights of 'Dog Years'

MIKE DAISEY'S funny and poignant take on the dot-com boom and bust, inspired by his roller-coaster years as an employee at Amazon.com, has enjoyed a triumphant run at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. If you haven't seen it yet, take note: This is the one-man show's final weekend. "21 Dog Years" plays 8:30 tonight and Saturday at Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. Tickets are \$10-\$55. Contact 510-647-2949 or www.berkeleyrep.org.

ments will be served. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 20 for more information.

■ **Storytelling for Adults**, a group of storytellers, and listeners, who love to listen to stories, to keep the oral tradition alive, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on the first Thursday each month at the Claremont Branch, Berkeley Public Library, 1940 Benvenue, at Ashby. Free. 610-644-6880; or 525-1533.

■ **The Reading Edge** is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge St. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability who requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

■ **The El Cerrito Toastmasters** offers basic public speaking and leadership activities and programs. Speakers of all skill levels are invited to come, observe and participate. Meetings occur every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moers Lane. For more information contact Jim Bruce at jim@peachpit.com.

■ **Kol Hadash**, the Bay Area's only Jewish Humanistic Congregation, with more than 110 family members from around the Bay Area, meets on the fourth Friday of each month for a regular Shabbat (Sabbath), every other month on a Saturday for a Family Shabbat. The group holds Sunday school classes two Sundays a month, celebrates all the major Jewish holidays and holds special events from time to time. Location: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. 428-1492.

Miscellany

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** in Berkeley offers ongoing classes at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Classes include exercises, ceramics, copper enameling, woodworking, weaving, creative writing, and tap dancing (Thursdays). New members are always welcome, especially seniors' over 50. Call 845-6830 for more information.

■ The Center for Independent Living announces its newly created **Asian Outreach Program** to assist Asian individuals with disabilities, particularly new

immigrants. Providing services and advocacy in Cantonese, Vietnamese, and English, program staff are culturally sensitive and knowledgeable of community and government service available to individuals with disabilities. For more information, call CIL at 510-763-9999.

■ **Friendship Circle**, a Jewish club for older adults, meet 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Ave. The club is an outreach program of Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center. Activities include day trips, Jewish holiday celebrations, theater outings, entertainment, speaker and much more. Call Maria at 848-0237 ext. 115 for details.

■ **Improve your speaking skills** by attending **Berkeley Communicators' Toastmaster** meetings, the first and third Wednesdays each month at 7:15 a.m. at Vault's Cafe, 3250 Adeline St. Call 527-2337 for more information.

■ **The Berkeley Camera Club** meets Tuesday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more details call Don at 525-3565.

■ **Disabled American Veterans** Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2068 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more details call R. DeRiti, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

■ **The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club** meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For details, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

■ **The Kensington Senior Activity Center** meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community

Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Details: 526-9146 or 547-1969.

■ **Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters**, The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

■ **Toastmasters**: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for more information.

■ **Toastmasters on Campus** meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

■ **"Voices of Healing"** is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

■ **State Health Toastmasters** meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10-1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

■ **Higher Alignment**: 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; 415-461-5337; \$20.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous**, a 12-step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 9 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

■ **TOPS**: 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter

meets at 980 Stannage Ave. at Marin; Mary, 526-3711.

Music

■ **The Jazzschool** presents vocalist **Stephanie Bruce** in a performance on Saturday, July 24, at 8 p.m. Purchasing advance tickets is highly recommended and seats are held until performance time. \$18 General Admission, \$15 Students/Seniors, \$12 Jazzschool students/children age 12 and under. Tickets are available at 510-845-5373. On Sunday, July 25, at 4:30 p.m. the Jazzschool hosts a performance by Pit of Fashion Orchestra, conducted by Peter Barshay. The Jazzschool is located in the Downtown Berkeley Arts District at 2087 Addison St. Details: www.jazzschool.com or call 510-845-5373.

■ **Jazz Mine** performs Fridays from 6:30-9:30 at King Tsin Chinese Restaurant, 1699 Solano Ave. in Berkeley.

■ **Jazzschool**, 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, hosts **Sunday Night Jam Sessions** every Sunday, 7:30-10 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome to sit in. Free. Call 510-845-5373 or swing@jazzschool.com.

Outdoors

■ The UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Strawberry Canyon, offers a **free sick plant clinic** on the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon. Dr. Raabe will diagnose. Details: 643-2755.

■ **Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds**: house sparrows,

starlings and pigeons are among the species that are not afforded rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in many ways. Free training and more info. Call Myra 531-3042 or myra@birdclub.org.

■ **East Bay Regional Park** Garden Tilden Park, presents tours, seven days a week, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Special tours on request. Call 841-8732. For upcoming classes call 925-948-1234.

Religion

■ **Arlington Community Church** of Christ, 52 Arlington Kensington, is holding **Year School**: A Celebration of the Families on Aug. 2-6, 9 a.m. Explore both biblical and modern concepts of family and have fun. Call 526-9146 for sign-up.

■ **Kol Hadash**, the Bay Area's only Jewish Humanistic Congregation, Rabbi Kai Eckstein will meet every Community Center, 1000 Ave., for Shabbat (Sabbath) fourth Friday of each month. Shabbat every other month; day; holds Sunday School classes two Sundays a month; holds all major Jewish holidays special events from time to time. The group also collects food for the needy. Passover Friday, April 9. E-mail kolhadash@qao.com, call 1492, or check Web site: kolhadash.org for more information.

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Children's Fairyland is open seven days a week. 10-4 on weekdays 10-5 Saturdays and Sundays Daily puppet shows and arts & crafts each weekend

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TARGET STORYTELLERS' SERIES HIGHLIGHTS FAIRYLAND'S SUMMER SEASON!

On the first weekend in each summer month, Target Stores sponsors the exploration of a different culture's stories and arts and crafts, geared toward young children.

JULY 31 & AUGUST 1: Audiences will experience Asian tradition and culture as master martial artist **Fei Chen** and storyteller **Ann Woo** celebrate the Chinese "Year of the Monkey" with the tale of "The Monkey King." The first 100 families through the Fairyland gates each day will receive one free book per family, compliments of Target Stores.

AUGUST 7 & 8: Circus Weekend! Join Fairyland Favorite **Ravioli the Clown** for a weekend of big top fun, including themed arts and crafts. **AUGUST 8 ONLY: Science of the Circus** - See science and physics brought to life by the clowns of **Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey!**

AUGUST 14 & 15: Fentons Flavorful Festival - Taste a huge ice cream sundae, vote for your favorite flavor, and more! Plus **Gary Lapow**, with original songs celebrating childhood and fun.

AUGUST 21 & 22: Puppet Faire co-sponsored by the **SF Bay Area Puppet Guild**, featuring spectacular puppet performances throughout the weekend!

AUGUST 28 & 29: Juggler and fire-eater Owen Baker Flynn

For information about memorable **Birthday Parties** visit www.fairyland.org, or call (510) 238-6878, #4.

Children's Fairyland is at Grand & Bellevue avenues in Oakland. \$6 for ages 1-100 (under 1 free). Rides & entertainment included. Call (510) 452-2259 or visit www.fairyland.org

© Children's Fairyland 2004

Richmond selects former county administrator as interim manager

Contra Costa
laud decision
old pro Batchelor
Rebecca Rosen Lum
STAFF WRITER
Richmond officials announced
might that former Contra
County Administrator Phil
Batchelor will start work in less
than two weeks as the interim city
manager.
elected officials and govern-
ment staffers around Contra
County, and many will say
Batchelor got lucky.
35-year veteran of public
administration produced 18 consecutive
budgets and the highest
ratings possible for Contra
County during his tenure and is
known by many for his keen fi-
nancial acumen.
Batchelor, 60, who lives in
Danville, headed up the county
government from 1984 to 2001,
overseeing a budget of \$1.5 billion
and a staff of 9,000.
"I love budget," Batchelor said

hit the ground running faster than
Phil."
Interim City Attorney Everett
Jenkins said Batchelor accepted
the post through at least January.
His employment contract will be
presented July 27.
Batchelor will receive \$20,000
a month — less than former City
Manager Isiah Turner pulled down
when benefits are factored in, Butt
said. "He has competency in fi-
scal management and has proven
ability to hire good managers —
two areas in which we have great
need," said Mayor Irma Anderson.
Although Batchelor said he will
leave the hiring of the police and
fire chiefs to his permanent re-
placement, he is likely to fill sev-
eral management vacancies.
Batchelor, 60, who lives in
Danville, headed up the county
government from 1984 to 2001,
overseeing a budget of \$1.5 billion
and a staff of 9,000.
"I love budget," Batchelor said

in a phone interview. "You can't be
on a stable financial footing un-
less you know the numbers."
Richmond has been struggling
to handle a \$35 million deficit of-
ficials announced in March.
"Phil's the right guy to get Rich-
mond through its toughest times,"
said county Supervisor John Gioia,
whose district includes Richmond.
"He'll be pretty upfront about
telling the council what the im-
pacts of their decisions are. He is
exceptionally good with finance
and budget, and frankly, I think
that is his forte."
When he worked in Santa
Clara County, Batchelor had
worked at various times as assis-
tant county executive, director of
revenue and systems, director of
personnel and administration, and
budget director.
Since leaving public office,
Batchelor has consulted for such
clients as the Santa Clara County
Board of Supervisors, investors

and law firms.
Some in Richmond are still
smarting over Batchelor's effort to
tighten eligibility requirements for
general assistance and food stamp
programs.
"At that time, that was our
fastest-growing program," said
Scott Tandy, Batchelor's chief as-
sistant at the county. The reforms
"would have saved probably mil-
lions of dollars."
Bay Area Legal Services suc-
cessfully sued the county over the
plan, saying it would have unfairly
denied benefits to many appli-
cants. The Mexican American Le-
gal Defense Fund and the NAACP
joined the suit.
"In order to avoid providing de-
cent services to poor and home-
less people during Batchelor's
tenure as county administrator,
Contra Costa County spent a for-
tune to defend his decisions and
programs in court," said Susan
Prather, a Richmond activist and

PROFILE

Name: Phil Batchelor

Age: 60

Residence: Danville

Career: Retired as Contra Costa County administrator in 2001 after 17 years; various management positions with Santa Clara County

Education: Master's in business administration and bachelor's in accounting, San Jose State

Honors: Outstanding Public Administrator Award from American Society for Public Administration; past president, County Administrators Association of California



homeless advocate. "They rarely,
if ever, won. That money would
have been better spent helping
people change their lives."
But Tandy said Batchelor "has
a sensitivity to public services" as
well as "keen financial skills."
Richmond can expect a hands-
on chief executive, Tandy said.
"The advantage I have in not
accepting a permanent position is

I'm in a position to tell (the coun-
cil) what needs to be done no mat-
ter how painful it may be," Batch-
elor said. "I was 17 years in Santa
Clara, 17 years in Contra Costa,
and I'm not going to work 17 years
in Richmond."

Reach Rebecca Rosen Lum at
510-262-2713 or rosenlum@cc-
times.com

Alameda County spends budget

management staff
\$38 million limit
percent; fund frozen
By Guy Ashley
STAFF WRITER

Alameda — Alameda
County already staggered by
years of budget woes
by program cutbacks
over layoffs, was hit by a
wave of bad financial news
when it was revealed
that its risk management staff
cut its budget for 2003-04
estimated 20 percent.
\$7.5 million problem has
the county to dip deep into
reserves of the risk manage-
ment program, which manages
insured county's payment
claims' compensation and le-
gal costs.
budget-balancing action
prompting questions about
county's ability to pay off fu-
ture claims and prompted a rare
case of public friction be-
tween supervisors and top
management over who is to
blame for the budget mishap.
Batchelor clearly must
be asleep at the switch,"
County Supervisor Keith
Kilian said.
Batchelor has been frozen
out of the county's risk man-
agement unit, and reserve funds
placed by the unit — the
core of the county's strat-
egy for future claims — have
been placed off limits.
Internal audit also is being
done that is offering hints
of mismanagement by top
financial officials. The
management budget was \$38
for 2003-04.
The revelation reflects the
problem of skyrocketing
costs of compensation costs
in the public
private sectors with equal

Officials hope the money will be
paid to the county in the coming
weeks.
But by far the biggest concern
regarding overspending is the
late notice top county officials
feel they received about the prob-
lem.

Beth Kilian, the county's risk
manager, told the Board of Su-
pervisors on Tuesday that she re-
alized the department was spend-
ing beyond its means about six
months ago, though some county
officials say quarterly financial
reports and other evidence indi-
cates the signs were there late
last year.

Carson and other supervisors
were not notified of the problem
until April, however, when
County Administrator Susan Mu-
ranishi apprised each board
member of the overspending
shortly after learning of it her-
self. With earlier notice, county
officials say they could have
taken other action to offset the
problems, and likely would not
have had to dig so deeply into
county reserves.

While county supervisors have
known about the problem for
nearly three months, it was not
addressed in detail by the full
board until a discussion Tuesday,
when Muranishi outlined in pub-
lic her plan to balance last year's
risk management. The plan in-
volves spending \$5.5 million in
unit reserves and shifting over
other funds that would have been
used to offset expected fiscal
shortages going into next year.

The board's ire focused on
Kilian, the county's top risk man-
ager for nearly two years, and as-
sistant county administrator
Donna Linton, Muranishi's top
deputy and the supervisor of the
risk management staff.

Carson and other top county
officials said the actions of Ki-
lian and Linton, particularly when
they knew of the problems and
when they notified their superi-
ors, will be a primary focus of
the ongoing investigation by
Patrick O'Connell, the county au-
ditor-controller.

Neither Kilian nor Linton re-
turned telephone calls on Friday.

At Tuesday's meeting, Kilian
took responsibility for the over-
spending and blamed her rela-
tive inexperience on the job as
the primary factor in the appar-
ent communication failure.

But Supervisor Scott Haggerty
did not buy the explanation.
Though he said Kilian's public
confession showed "refreshing"
candor, Haggerty asserted that
she was being offered as a sacri-
fice to shield her supervisors
from responsibility.

"We've thrown the risk man-
ager under the bus, and we're
just going to wipe our hands of
it and be done with it," Haggerty
said. "There was somebody
above that person who is re-
sponsible for that budget, and
somebody was not paying atten-
tion."

Autism puts Berkeley 'genius' on the map

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

Did you know that Willie Mays
was born on a Sunday? Or that the
Declaration of Independence was
signed on a Tuesday? Or that the
San Francisco earthquake struck
early on a Wednesday?

Eric Keys knows all this, and
more. Tell him your birthdate, and
he'll tell you what day of the week
you were born.

But that's just a parlor trick
compared with what he really
does. Keys, 41, is a drafting aide
in Berkeley's engineering depart-
ment, where he uses his extraor-
dinary mind to perform infinitely
complicated tasks that no one else
could possibly do.

For instance, Cristi Delgado, a
geographic information system
specialist in the department, is
making a detailed computer map
of Berkeley's sewers, including
every hookup from every sewer to
every house or apartment in the
city.

"All those hookups had to be
keyed in individually," she said.
"No one could do it but Eric. Any-
body else would be overwhelmed
by the sheer mass of detail. And I
guarantee you: There are no mis-
takes."

Former city engineer Bob
Newlon said the only suitable
word to describe Keys is "genius."

"He has an amazing amount of
information at his command, the
ability to access it instantly, and
extraordinary powers of concentra-
tion," Newlon said.

"Before we got computers, all
our maps had to be drawn by
hand," said city engineer Jeff Ege-
berg. "Eric drew them all, and they
are beautiful works of art as well
as being absolutely correct, down
to the tiniest detail. Now we're do-
ing it on computers, but guess who
puts all the information into those
computers? Eric, of course."

What makes his achievements
even more remarkable is that he's
autistic.

It could have easily gone an-
other way. Many autistic children
are misdiagnosed as mentally ill
and spend most of their lives iso-
lated from society.

But Keys was not. And that's a
tribute not only to him, but also to
a long chain of people who chose
to treat him as part of the solution,
not part of the problem.

It all started with his mother,
Loreen Keys.

"Nobody knew much about
autism when he was a little boy,
and a lot of parents were just giv-
ing up and dumping their kids on
the state," she said. "But I said, 'I
birthed him, and nobody is going
to love him as much as his family
does.'"

So she searched for doctors,
teachers and school counselors
who would focus on Eric's abili-
ties, not his disability. She hit the
jackpot with a teacher named
Joyce Sutton.

Sutton insisted on main-
streaming Eric and pushed hard
to get him admitted to Berkeley
High, where he could enter the
special needs program. That was
where he met Juanita McMullen,
manager of the city's Youth Em-
ployment Training Program.

"I was recruiting kids for sum-
mer jobs, and I noticed some of
his drawings," said McMullen.
"They were perfect! Every build-
ing was drawn to exact scale. So
I placed him in a summer job in
the engineering department. After
he graduated the next year, they
hired him full time. And he's been
there ever since."

But they didn't realize what
they had right away. Keys is so shy
it was painful for him to be inter-
viewed in any depth. Softspoken
in any case, he is uncomfortable
speaking to anyone he doesn't

completely trust, such as co-work-
ers and his extended family. And
he never talks unless spoken to
first.

For the first few weeks he was
assigned to menial duties. Enter
civil engineer Edith Acob.

"One day, I noticed that when-
ever you named a street in Berke-
ley, no matter how obscure, he'd
immediately point to it on a map,"
said Acob. "I walked into my
boss's office and said, 'Uh, I think
he can do a lot more than deliver-
ing mail.'"

That boss was Newlon, who at
the time was working as a civil en-
gineer for Berkeley. He gave Acob
the green light to use Keys' abili-
ties to the fullest. And to ensure
that he'll never be laid off, they
created a special job description
for him, one that only he can fill.

"Eric's talents are so extraor-
dinary, I'm still not sure they've
been fully tapped, even now," said
Newlon. "And he's such a joy to
have around. The look on his face
when he accomplishes something
will make your whole day. He's to-
tally egoless, but he's so thrilled
when he gets it right."

All these people have become
his second family.

"He comes to see me every day,
even though it's been almost 25
years since I placed him in that
summer job," says McMullen. "He
visits me right after he gets to

work and just before he leaves for
the day. You could set your watch
to it."

When he's not on the job mak-
ing maps of Berkeley, Keys spends
his own time on his hobby: mak-
ing detailed maps of other cities,
including San Francisco, Dallas,
Houston and San Antonio.

"He even knows his way
around places he's never been be-
fore," said Newlon, recalling the
time Keys joined Newlon's family
for a Fourth of July fireworks show
in Culver City.

Afterward, they couldn't re-
member where they'd parked in a
huge lot. After 45 minutes of
searching, it dawned on Newlon
to ask Keys if he had any idea
where their ride might be.

"He said, 'Yes, four rows back
and three rows over.' There's no
end to what he can do. But you al-
ways have to ask; he won't volun-
teer on his own," Newlon said.

Because of Keys, the city's
mapping system is years ahead of
neighboring communities, and in
1990 he was chosen Berkeley em-
ployee of the month. Since then,
he has become indispensable.

"But his greatest contribution
is himself," said Newlon. "When
you see the joy he gets out of life,
it opens up your mind to the pos-
sibilities in this world. I'm so
blessed to have the privilege of
knowing him."

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Funding

FROM PAGE A1

guage. The city has already spent \$1 million in bond money on infrastructure projects.

Several residents complained at the city's July 6 meeting that too much money was being considered for seismically retrofitting and expanding the City Hall and police and fire stations, located at 1000 San Pablo Ave.

At that time, the council was considering spending \$6.5 million on the City Hall and fire and police station projects.

Some \$2.2 million was being considered for park and recreation facilities and improvements.

After the meeting, the park and recreation commission drafted a letter opposing those recommendations.

The commission unanimously recommended \$4.1 million to fund its original list of projects, which it spent the last year creating through public meetings.

"Despite the work involved in its creation (of recommendations) and the unprecedented level of public involvement on which it is based, the commission's priorities list would be slashed by adoption of the staff memo's recommendations to little more than one-seventh of the total Measure F money," the letter reads.

"(That is) the smallest allocation recommended in the memo among the three permitted Measure F uses — City Hall, streets and traffic and parks and recreation."

Larman said that people assumed, perhaps incorrectly, that the park and recreation projects would get a larger piece of the

Measure F pie.

"Measure F isn't the only source of funding," Larman said. "There's something called Measure R, which is for ball fields. There's a few others as well. But I think Measure F was the single biggest component. It seemed like a real extraordinary opportunity to upgrade and expand its system."

Larman said he wasn't trying to devalue the needs of the City Hall and public safety buildings, but that he didn't think so much Measure F money would go to that one project.

"The language (of the measure) is vague enough that you could do anything with the language because it's not that specific... Maybe it wasn't the most brilliantly crafted language or maybe it was."

The recommendations from City Administrator Beth Pollard have since changed to increase the amount considered for parks and recreation facilities and decreasing the amount considered for the City Hall and public safety buildings.

The new recommendations are rounded out with \$2 million for street pavement improvements, which includes \$595,000 spent last year on that item. Some \$2 million is being recommended for traffic safety improvements.

Earlier this week, Police Chief Greg Bone defended the effort to spend more on the City Hall and the fire and police stations.

The three buildings were built in the 1960s and have undergone few upgrades. They're simply too small for the equipment and number of employees the city has.

Bone walked up a rickety staircase to the station attic that was packed with boxes of files

and computer equipment. He worried that the attic could collapse on the department's dispatch center, which sits directly below.

The department's booking room — where people are fingerprinted and where mugshots are taken — is also filled with computer equipment which could be dangerous if a suspect is uncooperative, he said.

The men's and women's locker rooms are cramped and there are too few lockers for the 27 full-time police officers and 11 volunteer officers.

In addition, Bone wants to move the EOC — a communications center for city management in the case of an emergency — from the city's community center to the police department.

The proper equipment for the emergency operating center, including radios, telephones and computers still need to be purchased, he said.

But the city has other needs, and as city officials have been said, there are more needs than there is money.

For example, the park and recreation commission came up with a list of \$6.8 million worth of projects to fund. If the council approves the most recent recommendations, only about half of that list would be funded.

In addition, Nichols Consulting Engineers has recommended that the city spend \$7.1 million over five years to improve its streets. The council will consider spending just \$2 million of Measure F bond money on street improvements at its Monday meeting.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Hills Newspapers earns eight awards in CNPA

STAFF REPORT

The Hills Newspapers group of weeklies were presented with eight awards at the California Newspaper Publishers Association's annual gathering for its 2003 Better Newspapers Contest, held July 17 in Long Beach.

Three second-place awards went to The Berkeley Voice for an editorial about the need for a county detox center in the wake of the brutal slaying of a popular homeless man at Santa Rita Jail; for content and design of the front page; and to staff writer Martin Snapp for the paper in the columns and commentary category.

The Montclairian received a first-place award for editorial writing in the largest circulation category, 25,001 and up. The Piedmonter, which received a first-place award for editorial

writing in the 4,301-11,000 circulation category.

The Alameda Journal received one first place for an editorial focusing on the severe beating of a teenager by other teens, a first-place for front-page content and design and a second-place for a front-page photo by staff photographer Tue Nam Ton.

"Local news is our mission, and it's one our editors and reporters take very seriously," said Deborah Byrd, editor of Hills Newspapers. "We know how professional and hard-working our staffs are, and it's gratifying to have their accomplishments recognized by their peers in the newspaper business."

Shareef Dajani, general manager of Hills Newspapers, said, "We are very excited to have earned these awards from CNPA. Our employees work very hard

to serve their communities and I am proud of their accomplishments."

Contra Costa News received more awards in its annual contest than any other news organization in the area.

The Contra Costa chain's flagship daily place for general news among newspapers. It won 12 first and second place commendations, more other daily except the Times.

It was the fifth year that the Times publishes daily editions. West County Times and San Ramon Valley picked up the general award for the 750,000 daily circulation.

Chamber

FROM PAGE 1

mission — to promote our small business district — especially independently owned and operated businesses, who are becoming an endangered species," he wrote in an e-mail. "I also felt a debt of

gratitude to the city of Albany, where my two now-adult children had the chance to spend most of their childhood."

Carter added that he's happy to be a "free agent," and is considering starting his own advertising business. In addition, he will help the chamber recruit a new director.

Said Lim: "I'm sure it shows what a great person (Carter) is, giving months lead time to one new, without delves crazy."

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Friedman

FROM PAGE A1

council's next scheduled meeting, Monday, Aug. 16.

She said Friedman has given a great deal to the city as well as West County. Among other things, he co-founded the Alliance for Public Education, a group dedicated to improving West County schools.

But she said the move will be a significant step.

"People tend to get involved where they live," said Moore, after the meeting. "And he will now be living and working in Alameda County."

Open space, marijuana moratorium

The El Cerrito City Council has voted in favor of the Contra Costa County open space bond measure intended to raise \$175 million over 30 years for park, recreation and open space pur-

poses.

The money would be raised by taxing properties throughout the county.

Mayor Moore expressed confusion about the measure, as the city itself was being asked to cast a ballot. The council originally endorsed the measure May 18 but Moore didn't expect that the city would have to cast a vote.

"This caught us (city administration) by surprise also," said City Manager Scott Hanin.

Representatives from the El Cerrito Democratic Club and the Sierra Club urged the council to vote in favor of the measure.

It ultimately did, voting 4-0 to authorize the city manager to vote yes. Councilwoman Sandi Potter was absent. Friedman said it would benefit the county to have more open space.

If approved by a majority of votes, \$2 million will be earmarked for open space in El Cerrito, Richmond and Kensington. In addition, the city will pay

\$202.50 annually for assessed by the measure city.

The parcels assessed \$35.50 for city hall, El Cerrito library and the public safety building.

Finally, with little opposition, the council unanimously proved a 45-day moratorium on the establishment of marijuana facilities.

Planning manager Carman said two items been made to the city the opening of such.

She and city attorney Coleman requested a moratorium to give the city time to give the city more time to create regulations to ban them outright.

"We would like to study what other cities are doing, what other cities are doing, what other cities are doing."

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Housing

FROM PAGE A1

borhood," Crowley said. "We don't need 45 feet of retail."

The group made its way to the Albany Bowl at Clay Street and then south to the three-story Portland Gardens building at Portland Avenue.

The group seemed to like the building. A nail and hair salon has opened on the ground floor. On the second floor is an outdoor courtyard with tables and chairs.

Under the recommended zon-

ing, the Portland Gardens building could be built.

The Albany Commons building could not because it's too tall. It goes as high as 47 feet. The new zoning, if approved would lower the height limit to 38 feet for buildings without affordable housing.

Council members differed on their thoughts about the recommendations.

Vice Mayor Robert Good strongly disagreed with the recommendations, and chastised the planning and zoning commission for "caving" to neighbors, which

he called a "pressure group."

"The original plan extended commercial (uses) to Kains and Adams," Good said. "This is vital to the economic health of San Pablo (Avenue)."

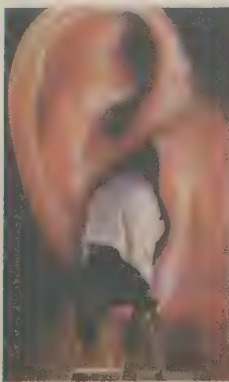
Thomsen said she was more open to a compromise. She wanted to maintain residential uses but add retail that keeps San Pablo Avenue and the surrounding area vital.

Councilwoman Jewel Okawachi said it was a difficult decision and that it would be difficult to please everyone.

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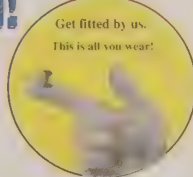
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Mary Makuck: "Now that I have my new hearing aids, I am so happy, less stressed and feel more comfortable and at ease when I attend family gatherings or go to church on Sunday. I'm just sorry that I waited until I was almost 80 years old to get them!"



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Manuel Silva: "Thank you for helping me hear and understand my granddaughters. I should have done something about my hearing loss sooner. I know I missed out on a lot."

Dan Mattauch, 48 yrs. old: "At AH I is very knowledgeable and was able to explain my hearing loss in layman terms. I also like the fact they are centrally located."



John Warren: "I know that I have had a hearing problem since I was 12. Through the years, it seems to have gotten worse. I never did anything about it. Now at 37, I finally got hearing aids. My son who is 5, no longer has to yell at me and I can understand what he is saying. I don't have to ask him to repeat every word. The staff here are really great, very nice people. They really made me feel comfortable and at home."

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Real Estate & Home

ing supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairion, The Piedmonter

Friday, July 23, 2004

Section B

From the Bay Area to the Back Bay: Boutique hotels in the East Bay and Boston

Two of four
first column, I defined a
hotel: an older commer-
cial building converted into a small-
scale, updated in-
habited in an upscale urban
neighborhood. These are priced
significantly less than brand-name
hotels in the same area. Now let's
look at one of the first boutique
hotels in the Bay Area, the
French Hotel in Berkeley.

The French Hotel is located at
1538 Shattuck Ave. in North Berke-
ley, in the heart of the famed
Gourmet Ghetto district. It occupies
a three-story brick building,
built in 1908. According to the
Berkeley Architectural Heritage As-
sociation, the building housed a
French Laundry in the early years
of the 20th century. At the time,
there was a sizable immigrant
community in the area, and the
laundry served the community with
cleaning fine and elegant shirts
and trousers. It was probably a two-story
building, since the upper floor of
the building is a stucco exterior, while
the lower floor is brick. The brick
exterior and metal
shutters can still be clearly
seen on both sides of the building.

According to the current owner
of the hotel, Sandy Boyd, Berkeley
developer Kathy Lustig bought the
building about 1978. She planned to
convert it into a small-scale, af-
fordable hotel. She spent two years
getting the necessary permits and
doing the remodeling and seismic
upgrade work. But the cost was
greater than Lustig anticipated, and
she went bankrupt.

In the meantime, Lustig had
asked Boyd to design and operate
a coffee house downstairs next to
the reception desk. He did so, and
this cafe was immediately profitable.
In 1984, Boyd bought the newly
renovated French Hotel from Lustig.
He has been operating it success-
fully ever since.

The French Hotel building now
includes 18 medium-sized rooms.
These rooms have good light, high
ceilings, and modern but aesthet-
ically pleasing decor. There is artwork
on the walls of each room, (a feature
common to most boutique hotels),
as well as in the lobby area, the cof-
fee shop, and along the old brick
walls of the long, narrow hallway.

The facade is currently faced with
glazed bricks, which have a geo-
metric, neo-Art Deco decorative pat-
tern. This feature was almost cer-
tainly added years after the building



MARK A. WILSON
Owning A Piece of History

was built, since this style of deco-
ration was not used on buildings in
the Bay Area before the late 1920s.

One of the most important fea-
tures of the French Hotel has nothing
to do with architecture. The
rooms are all priced quite modestly
for this upscale neighborhood. The
standard rate is \$95 per night, single
occupancy. And like all other
boutique hotels, service is available
for guests at all hours. A concierge
is on duty 24 hours a day.

In my next column, I will discuss
some of the most successful and his-
torically interesting boutique hotels
in both other parts of Berkeley —
such as the Beau Sky Hotel on Du-
rant Avenue — and San Francisco.

Mark A. Wilson can be reached
at 510-273-9383 or by e-mail at
MarkW@aol.com. Visit his Web site,
www.Wilcett.com, click on "Pieces
of History."



THE FRENCH HOTEL, at 1538 Shattuck Ave. in North Berkeley, lies in the heart of that city's famed Gourmet Ghetto district. It occupies an older three-story brick building, built about 1908. According to the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, the building housed a French Laundry in the early years of the 20th century.

Sorting through the past

Sorting out a house
after the death in the family
is a task of sadness,
but also of hope.

Return to February 1997,
Number 181 in a series of true
experiences in real estate

Although my mother died almost
eight months ago, Anet and I are
still working on cleaning out her
house in El Cerrito. We go there as
often as we can — a couple of
times a month — to sort and pack.

It's a little house. There really isn't
that much in it and yet, it seems
like so much. In some ways it
makes me feel good to go through
my mother's things and take care
of them. Bring them home to use
or give them to friends and family.
In another way, I know that I'm re-
luctant to finish, to make her home
as she made it vanish from view.

Often when we're there I find
something that I want to ask my
mom about. "Where did this come
from? I've never seen it before," I
want to say. Or, "Mom, I can't be-
lieve you saved this all these years."

A funny thing happened this
week while we were working in the
garage, something I sure wish I
could laugh with my mother over,
tease her about.

We were sorting things into
piles, going through quilting sup-
plies, vacation scrapbooks, and
plant food in the garage when we
came across a large plastic
garbage can with a lid. Inside,
neatly packaged, were disaster sup-
plies — a very complete kit.

Sweaters, pants, extra shoes
and socks. Band-Aids, Tums, an-
tibiotic cream and such carefully
wrapped. Canned foods, a tiny
can opener, bottled water. Portable
radio and batteries, separately
packaged.

It looked as if she had followed
a recommended list to the letter,
then added a few things more. A
pair of scissors, eating utensils and
cup, plastic containers, even twine
and rubber bands.

Anet said, "Well, obviously your
mom's house was where we should
have planned to go when disaster
struck. She was prepared to take
care of herself and several others,
too."

Money, toilet paper, Kleenex
Comb, mirror, soap. Candles and
matches. It went on and on. Down
at the bottom, wrapped in plastic,
Anet found a tablet of paper, pen
and pencils and — this is what was
so funny — a song sheet.

"A song sheet?" I asked Anet
who was laughing so hard she
couldn't answer. "What kind of song
sheet?"

"Good old Alice," Anet gasped,
"How I loved her. There's only one
song here and guess what it is?
'Oh, dear, what can the matter be?'
— several verses. Can't you just see
her leading the neighbors in song?"

We both collapsed in giggles.
I want to call up my mother, ask



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her, "Mom, how come you included
'Oh, dear, what can the matter be'
in your disaster kit?"

I want to say, "Were you plan-
ning on cheering up the troops?"
I can't call her, so I called my
friend Karin instead. Not long ago

See TARPOFF, Page B3



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Real Estate Focus:

Three-level home in north Berkeley



Located in the north Berkeley hills, the fine property at 1071 Euclid Ave. has been completely remodeled from the foundation to the roof, while retaining the original charm and elegance of the 1920s.

A large and sunny home, it features four bedrooms, two baths and a family room. At the top of its three levels is the charming master bedroom suite with gabled windows, marble bathroom and walk-in closet. On the main level is the lovely living room with wood-beamed ceilings, a handsome fireplace and gleaming hardwood floors. The gourmet kitchen features quality cabinets, black granite counter tops, marble counter walls, professional grade appliances, under-counter wine cooler, island and breakfast area. Out through the kitchen is a garden with patios, a new deck, fountain and solar-powered lighting.

Downstairs is a spacious family room with hardwood floors and a fireplace, an office or hobby room, and the laundry room. This level also opens to another sunny patio area.

This exceptional property is located near the "Gourmet Ghetto" and Solano Avenue shopping areas, very close to the Berkeley Rose Garden, Tilden Regional Park, and the U.C. campus.

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Diamonds can be an investor's best friend

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Diamonds, Spiders and Vipers may seem like strange investing terms, but they represent different types of exchange traded funds, or ETFs as they are more commonly called. Exchange traded funds are investment units, purchased by investors, that represent a basket of stocks that track the performance of a certain index or sector.

Although ETFs haven't been around long — they were introduced in 1993 — there are over 120 different ETFs in which you can invest. For example shares of Diamonds represent ownership of the

stocks that comprise the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA).

When you invest in one of these units, you seek investment results that will closely track the performance of the DJIA. Keep in mind that there is no guarantee that the results of the investment will match the index exactly.

Another ETF is the SPDR (commonly called "spiders"), which is intended to correspond to the movements of the Standard and Poor's 500 Index, or S&P 500. "Cubes" are another ETF that closely follows the performance of the Nasdaq-100 Index, an index composed of the 100 largest non-financial companies listed on the Nasdaq National Market.



LEILA GOUGH
Money Matters

There are also ETFs available that are intended to replicate the performance of a specific sector, such as technology, telecom, energy, financials or healthcare to name a few. Additional types of ETFs are being developed on a regular basis, so it is important to be aware of the options that are available in order to decide which ones will best help you meet your investment objectives.

Because ETFs trade on a stock exchange, you can buy and sell

See GOUGH, Page B4

Taking a look around the East real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

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The Oakland Association of Realtors is seeking a Membership Coordinator. Do you have a customer service background? How's your phone etiquette and computer skills. Familiarity with Internet based software, written and verbal English communication skills are essential. Send resume, cover letter and salary requirements via e-mail to jobs@oar.org or via fax to 510-272-0661.

Zero Down

The Zero Downpayment Act of 2004 would authorize the development of a zero-down product for FHA borrowers. Realtors affirmed their support for this program at the National Association of Realtors' Mid-year meetings and it was included in the president's 2005 budget. For approved borrowers, their down payment and closing costs could be rolled into the loan. Although this loan would have a slightly higher interest rate, it would allow buyers who qualify for FHA but don't have the additional funds to become homeowners. It will create a whole new market of homeowners.

Oakland Governor

Experience "The Pardee Legacy: Oakland Mayor and California Governor" by David Nicolai, curator of the Pardee Home in Oakland. This Alameda Museum offering is 7 p.m., Thursday, July 29. Nicolai becomes Pardee as he tells his tale. Call 510-748-0796 for tickets.

Too Much

You're getting ready to move and you have too much stuff. Your parents are ready for a smaller home, but are finding the thought of a move overwhelming. There is help out there. SISTERS specializes in on-premises estate and moving sales. The service begins with appraisal of the items and depending on your needs could leave a virtually empty, broom-clean house. To find out more about this service contact Gayle Davis at 510-528-8020.

Handy Classes

If you're handy around the house or want to learn how, the Building Education Center in Berkeley is the place for you. BEC provides ongoing classes, lectures and

events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. Topics cover power tools, concrete work, retrofitting, plumbing, interior design, carpentry and solar electricity, to name only a few. You can call the center for class information and cost. Contact Sydney at 510-525-7610 or visit bldgeductr.org.

LOST LISTINGS

Are you frustrated by losing listings? Do you need a formal presentation? Attend the "Listing Presentation Class", presented by veteran business coach and trainer Kitty Cole. Cole teaches how to create personal listing presentation and marketing plan. This program is viable for agents of all experience levels. Get the confidence you need to get the listing. The next class is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 4, in Berkeley. For tuition information call 925-254-1900 or e-mail Kittybiz@aol.com. Brokers: Cole offers private training classes for your office alone. A minimum of 15 is required.

FENG SHUI

"Feng Shui For Real Estate" offers the top ten tips for picking properties with the greatest potential. Learn how to prepare a property for sale and unlock the potential in mediocre properties. Nadine Oei is the facilitator. The class is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, July 31, at the BEC, in Berkeley. The reservation line is 510-525-7610.

OLE' TIMERS

Be a part of the Real Estate Ole Timers Reunion Luncheon. The reunion started ten years ago and is the brainchild of Bob Valva of Valva Realty in Oakland. "It's an opportunity to get together with friends and industry acquaintances from the past," said Valva. "People get busy and lose touch. This reunion is a fun and easy way to catch up." Real estate agents and affiliates from Berkeley, Oakland, Alameda and San Leandro, aged 55 and over are invited. If you would like to be on the mailing list or receive more information call Valva at 510-451-7317.

TIME COACH

Monthly lunch and learn sessions are a tradition at the Berkeley Association of Realtors.



BOBBIE R.

ley Association of Realtors at the BAR Auditorium, Wednesday, July 28.

Kitty Cole, who will be on time management at the Lunch Bunch office at 510-848-4288.

INSIGHTS ONLINE

The premier source for real estate data to aid in business decisions. Real Estate (REI), a subscription by the National Association of Realtors includes new and search information and fresh design that is service is available at reiof.com.

HOME MAKEOVER

UpStagers offers styling for Bay area homes. There are three home makeovers. The company's furniture and accessories can be used and returned. A consultation of those do-it-yourselfers looking for some direction is available at www.upstagers.com.

SPOTLIGHT?

At their recent annual Associated Real Property (ARP) honored Virginia Martin and Emily being pioneers in the scholarship students. Joyceline National Title company's donation to each recipient.

TELL ME?

I'll announce your listing in this column if you send information deadline is before the event. Send bobbiered@msn.com your info to me at 510-

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FEATURED HOME

6829 ELVERTON DRIVE \$1,245,000

Montclair. Dramatic New Home. Panoramic Bay, canyon views. Three plus bedrooms including a master suite. Four full baths, library, home office, recreation room. Stunning circular entry. Gourmet kitchen with commercial grade appliances.

David Hennigan 601-9540

415 PERSHING DRIVE \$959,000

Montclair-Piedmont Side. Sweeping South Bay views are brought into this sophisticated home through walls of glass; soaring ceilings, spacious rooms, updated kitchen, 3BD/3BA.

Tracy Butler 531-7000 x232

1 OAKWOOD COURT \$925,000

Montclair. Striking 90's contemporary with wonderful drama! Expansive windows and lots of natural wood. 3BD/2.5BA, romantic master suite w/frplc., formal dining room, family room, eat-in kitchen, home office. Easy expansion.

Mary Neuberger 531-7000 x251

633-637 VALLE VISTA \$949K-\$979K

Grandlake. Fourplex. 2 Buildings at this location with views, quality & charm. Buy one or both.

Antoine Pirson 531-7000 x270

1135 GLENDORA AVENUE \$739,000

Upper Glenview. This lovely 4BD/3BA home, with 2+ rms., is located in desirable neighborhood. It has been beautifully restored & upgraded. There are 3 decks overlooking landscaped yard & a huge basement.

Jaya Bhimani 531-7000 x289

4335 EVERETT AVENUE \$719,000

Glenview. This spacious Mediterranean has 4BD/2+BA & a large family room. The interior has been freshly painted. The setting is lovely & perfect for entertaining. Close to schools, shops & transportation.

Chris Christensen 531-7000 x242

3317 WYMAN STREET \$469,000

Maxwell Park. Fabulous mid-thirties home, spacious 3BD/1BA w/split-level floorplan, gorgeous random plank hardwood floors, attached garage w/interior access, extra-large lot with expansion potential & a gardener's delight!

Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228

2924 MAXWELL AVENUE \$459,000

Maxwell Park. Gardeners Delight! Light & bright 3BD/1BA, terrific floor plan, living room w/large picture window, built-ins & frplc. French doors lead from the Breakfast onto deck. Peruvian floors complete the remodeled kitchen & bath. Bonus room & laundry downstairs. One car garage.

Heidi Kearsley 531-7000 x295

3015 MADERA AVENUE \$449,000

Maxwell Park. Charming 3BD/1BA on tree-lined street! Living rm. w/bay windows & fireplace, dining rm. w/built-ins, frplc., refinished hrdwd. flrs., updated kit. & bath. Basement for storage, great yard plus patio.

Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228

3251 KANSAS STREET \$379,000

Laurel. Cute as a button! Sweet 2BD built close to shops restaurants & transportation. Sunny & bright starter offers a spacious w/breakfast nook, a handsome frplc., & hrdwd. flrs. Private backyard. Easy access 580 & 13.

Heidi Tuggle 531-7000 x286

BY APPOINTMENT

BIGGER THAN IT LOOKS! \$729,000

Berkeley Hills. Sunny 2BD/2BA has family room, office with separate street level entrance. Lovely bay and S.F. views, yard and gardens. Very stylish.

Stan Hammond 531-7000 x246

CLASSIC CROKER HIGHLANDS

BUNGALOW \$595,000

Oakland. 3BD/1BA, window bay, fireplace, hardwood floors, African slate kitchen floor. Large, peaceful backyard. Foundation and upgrades.

Stan Hammond 531-7000 x246

LEONA HEIGHTS \$419,000

Oakland. Built in '55, single story approximately 1100 sq. ft. with two bedroom, one and a half bathroom, living room, dining room, eat-in kit., laundry, pantry, hrdwd. floors.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

LAND

25 UNIT CONDO \$1,250,000

Development Project. Plans, permits, ready to build. China Hill, near Lake Merritt.

Anne Bruff 531-7006 x283

LOT IN DESIRABLE LOCATION \$265,000

Gentle downslope in great location with utilities at street.

Teri Lester 531-7000 x262

2 BAY VIEW LOTS \$200K-\$225K

Snake Rd. in Montclair. Downslope with utilities in street and soil report. Area of million dollar plus new homes. Commercial financing available.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

TWO GENTLE UPSLOPE LOTS \$169,000

Sold together as a package, these lots are in a tranquil wooded setting located minutes from Montclair Village and freeway access. Seller financing available.

Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292

6350 CONTRA COSTA \$849,000

Upper Rockridge. Incredible value in the Oakland Hills for this 3200 sq. ft. 6-year new home! High ceilings with light-filled rooms. Vibrant open floor plan. Immaculate throughout. Lake Temescal plus partial bay view.

Pedram Karbassi 531-7000 x290

2386 LEIMERT BLVD. \$799,000

Oakmore Upper. Just Listed. Updated 1936 3BD/3BA beauty w/fabulous new kit., new master BA, frml. din. rm., fam. rm., sun rm. Charming liv. rm. w/valuated beamed ceiling & stone frplc. New 50-yr roof, w/copper gutters. New 50 gallon water heater & new furnace 1998. Seismically retrofitted. Prime location.

Don Dunning 531-7000 x239

ARMs: most frequently asked questions

Although fixed interest rates are still at historical lows, most analysts agree that we will see a rise in rates over the next months.

Currently, the maximum conforming fixed rate mortgages (the maximum loan for single family homes is \$333,700), is ranging between 5.75 and 6.25 percent. Analysts anticipate that by December the range will be between 6.75 and 7.25 percent.

With that in mind, one of our Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM) lenders, World Savings, ranked the top five, most asked questions about ARMs and neg- amortization.

What's the very best fixed in- rate (and other myths)? World Savings explains that the best fixed-rate loan is the one that's "best kept secret". Pri- vately, because it is "sold" on the secondary market because it cannot portfolio (a fancy word for "keeping" the money in the bank) fixed rate loans for years.

Most borrowers rarely keep a mortgage beyond six years and the ARM or savings and loan, who originate the loans they sell, usually lose money if the loans are redone in



KAREN SENZIG
Mortgage Madness

ten years or less. And, financial institutions hate to lose money!

"I want peace of mind" that the payment will never change. What is peace of mind if when the payment never changes even if you or a family member becomes sick, your company downsizes, you lose your job or any other difficult event that normally occur in people's lives. The peace of mind associated with the fixed rate loan may actually become an anchor pulling you down.

That's a neg am loan, isn't it? Not necessarily so. The "Option ARM" or "Pick-a-Payment" (World's name for an Option ARM) loan program does not have to have negative amortization unless you want it to. It's the payment that counts, not the rate because:

See SENZIG, Page B4

Alameda Museum hosts George Pardee



GOVERNOR GEORGE PARDEE took the train down from Sacramento to host a Fourth of July affair at the family home in downtown Oakland. He stands on the steps of the Pardee Home with his wife Helen and their daughters Florence, Madeline, Carol and Helen. David Nicolai played Dr. George Pardee, Karen McKinney played Mrs. Helen Pardee, Melissa Bleier played Florence Pardee, Allison Love played Madeline Pardee, Ana Love played Carol Pardee, and Katie Love played Helen Pardee.

Thursday, July 29, 2004, 7 pm: "The Pardee Legacy" by David Nicolai, curator of the Pardee Home in Oakland. David will dress in character and present George Cooper Pardee's "first person" account of his regime as University of California drum major, Oakland Mayor (1893-95), and California Governor (1903-07). Pardee was "a businesslike chief executive who urged economy, efficiency and conservation. He supported tax reform... and advocated safe roads out of consideration for horses," accord-

ing to Carol Dunlap's California People. Pardee hobnobbed with Theodore Roosevelt when the President visited California in 1903. Roosevelt arrived triumphantly in Oakland, "aboard an elegantly appointed electrical trolley car built and outfitted especially for him." Underwritten by Pagano's Hardware.

The lecture takes place at 7 pm at the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave. near Park Street. We open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free for members of the Museum; \$5 for others. Call 510-748-0796.

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PAGE B1

and her brother and sisters out their family home after their mother died. I wanted to know about surprises, things they had asked their mother about.

I wanted to review with them they had managed to live and complete the clearing house, then selling it.

It was rather a more com- plicated project because the house was built by the children lived in. North Carolina, and City. Except one, Karin's sis- ter lives in Illinois about a hour from the house.

Call her Saint Mary," Karin said. "We couldn't have done any- thing without her."

The house, Victorian, three bedrooms on an acre of land and a two-story barn. The family had lived there for 54 years, accum- ulating things and belongings and tools and linens and things that people bring with them.

Karin's mother died, the house was sold, and grandchil- dren home to attend to things. Karin's time they went through the house, sorted, packed, and boxes back to their 14 dif- ferent households.

There were no squabbles over the house, Karin says. "Everybody had their own eye. Those of us who grew up with the orien- tation and overstuffing fur- nished toward more minimalist but our children loved the house, so they got it. It worked out really well."

How did they deal with the house? "Mary made an in- creasingly small choice of what we got a dumpster and we got rid of it. We laid out seem- ingly thousands of items on tables and antique dealers came. We took them to the historical society, the thrift shop. We gave fifty percent to the local opera company."

Her aunt's from out of town came after the funeral to take home something hand- made in embroidered tablecloth. We divided up among us boxes of loose photographs, photo albums, records, tapes, and the people who bought the house found some things."

At any time Mary said she found something, we said, "It's something you find any surprises? Yes,

in a bag of dirt in a bag in the barn. Not potting soil. Why was it there? Had it come from? No one

Swedish grandparents' clothes. Black morning

suit, stiff white collar; high-necked white lace dress. They recognized the clothes because they'd seen them all their lives — in a gilt-framed wedding portrait hanging in the house.

And probably the most valuable and surprising find of all — original Walt Disney drawings, paper cartoon strips. In a suitcase in the attic storage room, apparently packed away in the 1930s, were Mickey, Ferdinand and the Bull, Pinocchio.

"Our folks didn't even let us go to the movies," Karin says. "They certainly weren't Disney fans. How did they happen to have these strips?"

It hadn't occurred to the finders that these strips might be valuable.

They simply wanted to know why they were there. And then they realized why.

The Swedish grandparents had a dear friend, a man named Louis Nader. Every Sunday Louis Nader, a local banker, went to dinner at the grandparents' farm. He dressed elegantly, always wore a fedora, was a fascination to the children.

Louis Nader had another friend, they remembered now — Walt Disney. The strips must have been a Sunday dinner gift.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 652-2050 and at www.tarpoffandtalbert.com.

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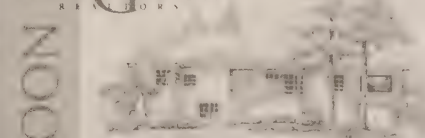
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Shenandoah

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264 Sheridan Road

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Gough

FROM PAGE B2

them throughout the day. Since the value of an ETF is computed at regular intervals, the price you see quoted for an ETF is relatively close to the value of its underlying shares.

Also because you can see what stocks make up a particular index or sector, ETF holdings are transparent, meaning you always know what your investment is comprised of and how much of each industry you are exposed to. You should also keep in mind that ETFs are a portfolio of stocks that are overseen or managed and there is a fee associated with investing in them. An investment in an ETF will fluctuate such that shares when redeemed may be worth more or less than the original investment.

Now that you have a better understanding of what an ETF is and how it works, here are a few reasons why you might consider investing in one. ETFs allow you to add a component of diversification to your portfolio without taking on the company specific risk you would encounter if you invested in an individual stock. When you purchase shares of an ETF, you invest in an instrument that represents an entire sector or index, so the value of your investment fluctuates with the performance of all of the underlying stocks in the fund.

If you choose to invest in an ETF that represents a specific sector of the market, versus one that tracks an entire index, you should be aware that its value may react with more volatility to changes in market conditions than with one that represents a more diversified portfolio of stocks.

Exchange Traded Funds can be a welcome addition to many

investors' portfolios. They can add diversification, many times without greatly increasing the risk you are exposed to. Your financial consultant can discuss which ETFs may be a good fit with your investment objectives.

Your financial consultant can provide you with a prospectus which contains more complete information about these exchange traded funds. The prospectus contains the funds investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses and should be read and carefully considered before investing or sending money.

Leila Gough is an Associate Vice President with A. G. Edwards, member SIPC. She can be reached at (510) 452-8060.

**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER.**

Senzig

FROM PAGE B3

(1) the Option ARM offers the borrower a choice of payments-including the bi-weekly payment, (which must be set up in advance), which pays off the loan in 25 years instead of 30; (2) if a larger payment is made than required, you benefit from the accelerated amortization. (3) You can determine the term of your own loan as the interest savings.

What about the life cap? The life cap was devised when the ARM was first introduced in the late 70's. early 80's arm reflected the 12-18 percent mortgage rates environment of that time. It is unlikely to ever occur again because of the money controls that have been initiated as a preventative. Short term deposit rates (3 month CDs, 1 year treasuries, and so on.) would have to reach extraordinary heights

to make this a concern.

What about the prepayment penalty? The cash flow benefits and payment options make this a loan you should keep at least three years (the average prepayment penalty) or more. The lender (World's policy) will waive it upon sale or refinancing if they get the next loan. You are allowed to pay an additional \$5000 per month with no prepayment penalty in the first three years.

So, once you are in an Adjustable Rate Mortgage market in the near future, it doesn't need to be as scary as it sounds. And then again, there are other ARM loan products, the short term fixed rates for three, five, seven and 10 years to satisfy the adamant fixed rate junkies.

Karen Senzig can be reached at 510-339-8511.

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\$650,000



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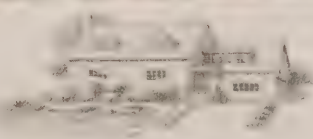
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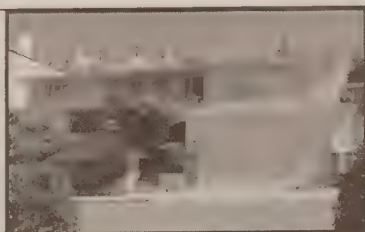
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Carol Brown
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COMING SOON



Upper Rockridge

This one-owner home sits on an over-sized lot and offers all-level living plus a bay view. It has a spacious living room with a two-sided brick fireplace, a formal dining area, three bedrooms, two baths, and hardwood floors. It is level-out to a sunny patio and has a two-car garage.



For information on this property, call:

NANCY DICKEY, CRS

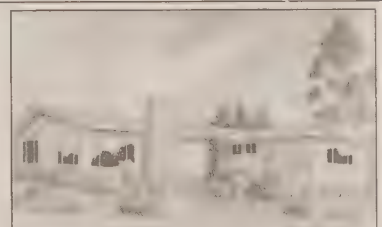
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SOLD



5147 Crocker Place, Oakland

Located atop a knoll, enhanced by South Bay views, this 3 bedroom/2bath home. The updated kitchen with its adjoining family room flow easily from the living area to a level patio beyond. For outdoor enthusiasts, one may enjoy its close proximity to East Bay Regional Park Trails, Joaquin Miller Park & Woodminster Amphitheatre. This home is truly special!!

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Karen Lum, Realtor

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Pros and cons of multiple counteroffers

Suppose you're selling and are enough to receive more than one offer. Then imagine that you're more fortunate. All of the offers are so similar that you decide which one to pick. One might ask the parties to resubmit offers. This can be off-putting. After spending time and money to put an offer together, most want to hear a more definitive response back from the seller.

Furthermore, the seller not only needs to re-sign the multiple counter, the buyer must also actually receive the counter re-signed by the seller for it to be binding. Up until that has occurred, the buyer and seller are under no obligation to buy or sell the property.

Let's say you make an offer to buy a house and there are three other offers. The seller decides to counter the two best offers. You sign the multiple counteroffer and your agent delivers it to the seller. The seller re-signs it, but before you have received the counter re-signed by the seller, you

see another house that you like better and withdraw your signed counteroffer. As long as you withdraw before you receive the counter re-signed by the seller, you are under no obligation to buy the property.

HOME SELLER TIP: This is another risk of using a multiple counteroffer. You can risk losing a good buyer who decides to buy something else because he figures that his chances of winning your multiple counteroffer competition are slim. Multiple counteroffers can also backfire if the seller is perceived as being too greedy.

In one multiple counteroffer situation, the best buyer backed out because the seller asked for more money. The buyer had made an offer that was well over the asking price. The seller was left with a single buyer who had made a lower offer. When this buyer responded to the seller's multiple counteroffer, he lowered his price since he was aware that the other buyer had dropped out. If the seller had simply

accepted the best offer, he would have come out ahead.

Before making multiple counteroffers, consider the risks. Make sure your counters protect you from selling to more than one buyer. You only have one property to sell. If more than one buyer thinks he has the right to buy it, you could be tied up in a legal mess and no sale at all.

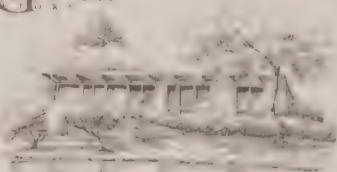
THE CLOSING: Make sure that you don't jeopardize an excellent offer just to see if you can up your profit a bit. You could end up with nothing.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.



DIAN HYMER
house hunting

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By APPOINTMENT. Exciting remodel of 1971 architect designed home in the North Berkeley Hills! One level living with level entry from driveway with a sunny garden! Two bedrooms, one and one half baths. Very Special!

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These well maintained buildings with 4-1bdm units upstairs & 2-1 bdrm units downstairs "SF" style flats offer formal dining room, 3 walk-in closets & high ceilings. Craftsman duplex upstairs unit perfect for an owner to occupy with 2+ bdrms, formal dining room and beautiful original woodwork. Downstairs 2 bdrm unit, with interior access to garage. Close to Piedmont Avenue and BART.

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6958 Bristol Drive, Oakland

This spectacular 3 yr old Mediterranean is truly a masterpiece. It has a great floorplan and the best details. There is a leveled terraced manicured backyard w/a unbelievable out door kitchen & Gazebo. 4 Bedrm, 3.5 Bath, Family Rm w/ fireplace, a kitchen you will remember, and a master suite w/ sep. sitting rm. This has the Best of everything!

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Judy Ackerman

510-339-4749 Direct line

judyorita@yahoo.com



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BERKELEY \$7,250,000
2+ BA This home is listed on the National Historical Registry. The estate includes second house w. 3BR/3BA, 2 guest rooms & tennis court.
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EMERYVILLE \$5,985,000
2005+BA Spectacular French Chateau designed in 1926 by Albert Farr. Extensively renovated, fabulous kitchen & master suite, w/ walk-in closet.
Judy Ackerman 510.339.4700

NORTH BERKELEY \$799,000
3 units are 2BD/1BA. 1 unit is 3BR/2BA with a huge finished basement.
Noni Robinson 510.339.4700



OAKLAND HILLS \$649,950
2+ BA Easy living! Updated one-level home on very large wooded lot, fabulous bay windows, private from street, 2-car garage.
Barbara Manenthul 510.339.4700

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$619,000
3+ BA Below highway 13, near shopping, recreation & public parks. Media room, home office and more!
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ROCKLEDGE \$449,000
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ROCKLEDGE \$495,000
2+ BA 1912 Brown shingle craftsman home. Carved stairway, lg porch, wains, wedge wood stove. Needs TLC.
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ROCKLEDGE \$415,000
2+ BA Space Elmwood Condo Walking distance to transportation & Restaurants. Sec 24 hr. laundry/parking.
Barbara Manenthul 510.339.4700

OPEN HOUSES

BERKELEY \$399,000
2 BR 1 BA Stylish condo nr Cal stadium. Ikea kit., Pergo flrs, updd bath. Pvt patio, secure parking.
Diana Kay 510 486.1495



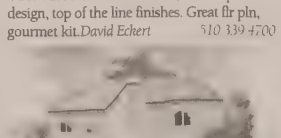
CLAREMONT \$1,540,000
49 Vicente Pl.
5 BR + 5 BA Mediterranean Villa. Great location! Bay views! 2yrs. new kitchen, formal LR/DR, Fam rm.
Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700



TEMESCAL \$1,399,000
3801-3817 Shafter 8 units
Sun 2 - 5
8 well maintained "SF style" flats are rich with original details. Close to Piedmont Ave.
Gary & Noni Robinson 510.339.4700

MONTCLAIR \$1,110,000
152 Taurus
Sun 2 - 4:30
5 BR 3.5 BA Medit Bungalow w/arch detail: lovely terraced garden-all done w/artists eye for beauty.
Preston Grant 510.339.4700

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,075,000
4700 Shetland
Sun 2 - 4:30
4 BR 4 BA New construction, contemp. design, top of the line finishes. Great flr plan, gourmet kit.David Echert 510 339 4700



CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$920,000
831 Portal Ave.
Sun 2 - 5
4 BR 3.5 BA Crocker Highlands at its best! Gourmet kit. Great yard, deck & patio. HWF & Great flrplan.
Judy Ackerman & Karen Lum 510.339.4700

OPEN HOUSES

PIEDMONT PINES \$779,000
6240 Chelton Drive
Sun 2 - 4:30
3+ BD, 2+ BA Bay views, kit/flam rm, great outdoor living, mstr suite, home office, rec rm.
Dian Hymer 510.339.4700

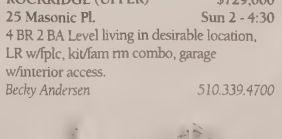
MONTCLAIR \$779,000
5958 Colton Blvd.
Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 2.5 BA Stylish spacious & sunny contemporary. Master ste. w/ fireplace. Walk in closet. 3 decks
Peter & Ellen Nicolopoulos 510.339.4700

CLAREMONT HILLS \$729,000
1067 Siler Pl.
Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 2 BA. Sharp & Dramatic. Walls of glass in tree setting. Big family room & eat-in kitchen.
Terry Kulka 510.339.4700

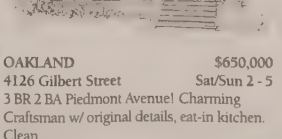


REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$729,000
3171 Jordan Rd.
Sun 1 - 4:15
3 BR 2 BA Tranquil serene setting on almost .5 acre of lush grounds. Hills view, 2 FP decks/patio.
Victor Ratto & Liat Botick 510.339.4700

ROCKLEDGE (UPPER) \$729,000
25 Masonic Pl.
Sun 2 - 4:30
4 BR 2 BA Live/living in desirable location, LR w/fplc, kitchen rm combo, garage w/winter access.
Becky Andersen 510.339.4700



OAKLAND \$650,000
4126 Gilbert Street
Sat/Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 2 BA Piedmont Avenue! Charming Craftsman w/ original details, eat-in kitchen. Clean.
Zanna Knight 510.486.1495



OPEN HOUSES

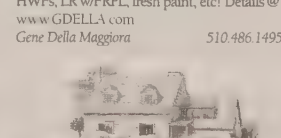
CHINA HILL \$649,950
303 Newton 4 units
Sun 2 - 4:30
Charming 4 plex w/lots of character. Great curb appeal 3 spacious 1BD/1BA units & 1 studio.
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700



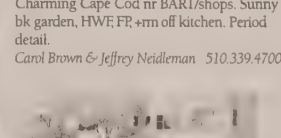
OAKLAND/REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$639,000
4327 Detroit
Sun 1 - 4
3 BR 2 BA Lvly, Immac Trad! Gleaming HWF's, LR w/FRPL, fresh paint, etc! Details @ www.GDELLA.com
Gene Della Maggiora 510.486.1495



NORTH BERKELEY \$595,000
1415 Sacramento St.
Sun 1 - 4:30
Charming Cape Cod nr BART/shops. Sunny bk garden, HWF, FR, +rm off kitchen. Period detail.
Carol Brown & Jeffrey Neideman 510.339.4700



TEMESCAL \$549,000
3931 Clarke St, Unit 4
Sun 2 - 5
Desirable fourplex, each one bdrms w/arch. Charm, fireplaces, hrdwd floors. Near BART.
Carolyn Devol 510.339.4700



OPEN HOUSES

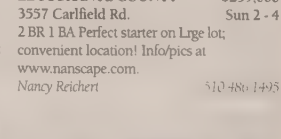
MONTCLAIR \$525,000
5721 Scarborough Drive
Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 1.5 BA Spectacular bay/bridge views in Piedmont Pines. Contractors/1st time homebuyers dreams!
Barbara Hardacre 510.339.4700

LINCOLN HEIGHTS \$499,000
4107 Lincoln Avenue
Sun 2 - 5
2 BR 2 BA Split-lvl, tradntl style, great w/outdoor rapport. Light & cheerful. Yd, fp, hwdws, + rm.
Rachel Baller 510.339.4700

HERCULES \$429,000
157 Cardozo
Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2.5 BA Duet 2 story home w/news! New carpet & tile. Fam rm w/patio. Comm. pool & spa. 2 car gar
Maxine Malberg 510.486.1495

EMERYVILLE \$345,000
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Sun 2 - 4:30
Authentic Live/Work Loft. Clean, light, move-in unit in Besler bldg. Ideal location.
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EL SOBRANTE COUNTY \$259,000
3557 Carfield Rd.
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2 BR 1 BA Perfect starter on Lrg lot; convenient location! Info/pics at www.nanscape.com.
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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

6137 La Salle Avenue, Oakland

Emotions can't be ignored in buying a house

BY MARY UMBERGER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

True story. Frank Cook swears it's true.

A young couple is so rattled by the prospect of going house-hunting the next day that they begin drinking wine to calm themselves, explains Cook, a journalist who has covered real estate for many years. They worry about buying the wrong house, and so they drink. They worry about whether they can even afford a house, and they drink some more. They worry about whether they're taking on too long a commute, and ... well, the pattern continues into the night.

Next morning, when their real estate agent picks them up, they're so hung over that they want to end the ordeal as quickly as possible. So they buy the first house the agent shows them.

Might one infer a moral here? Could it be, never let your emotions get the better of you in a real estate deal?

Hardly.

"For years, the couple agreed it was one of the best decisions they ever made," says Cook. He maintains that cut-and-dried advice about studying the numbers and sticking to financial logic is well-intentioned and useful, but overlooks the quirky power of emotion in real estate.

"Home buying is a lot more about you than it is about the house," he advises in his book, "You're Not Buying That House, Are You?" (Dearborn Trade Publishing, 2004). "Home buying is more about your personality and who you believe you are than it is about mortgages, appraisals, closing costs and commission fees.

"I believe that in the core of my soul," Cook says. "People say 'money, money, money,' but in my opinion, the house is an ego purchase."

Conventional wisdom holds that emotion is an ever-present wild card in home buying. A seller, for instance, is thoroughly insulted by a so-called "low-ball"

offer and brings negotiations to a halt. A buyer says he has "fallen in love" with a house and has to have it, regardless of price. A seller indignantly announces to her agent that she would never sell her house to anyone who intends to tear it down and rebuild, because her children grew up there.

Katherine Lebaric takes a different view. "You run into emotions, of course," she agrees, but she puts her faith in statistics to carry the day. Lebaric, of Monterey, Calif., has developed software for agents and consumers that she says "strips away the emotion" of real estate negotiation. From the seller's standpoint, her new product calculates reasonable likelihood of a property's time on the market at a given price, or the likelihood of getting a better offer in a given time frame. From a buyer's point of view, her program specifically calculates what amount should constitute a fair offer.

Lebaric is not a real estate

agent. Later this year she plans to begin graduate studies in computational finance at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Now she is concentrating on marketing her software, called RealNegotiate, which she began to develop when her parents were considering making an offer on a house a few years ago.

"We only wanted to buy if we could get a fairly good deal," she recalls. "We wondered what was the probability of how quickly it would be purchased at the price the sellers wanted. But there just wasn't an objective way."

Real estate agents suggested likely scenarios to them, based on comparative market analyses, which are commonly called "comps." Comps are derived from sales

See EMOTIONS, Page B7

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OF CAL—TRADITIONAL
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This home glows! High ceilings, freshly refinished hardwood floors, fully equipped updated kitchen, 2BD/2BA—master suite—gorgeous classic fireplace—very, very spacious and lots of closet space. The feel of a traditional home with very tasteful updating. Located on a tree-lined timeless street a stones-throw from campus. \$599,000

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THIS LOVELY HOME IS LOCATED IN THE DELIGHTFUL WESTBRAE SECTION OF BERKELEY and is convenient to shops, restaurants and BART. 3+ BD, 2 1/2 BA, FDR, tiled fireplace, breakfast rm, redone kitchen, 2 car garage & sunny backyard! Traditional details & excellent separation of space make this a home a real pleasure to live in. \$645,000

STYLISH MONTCLAIR CONTEMPORARY—PERFECT FOR INDOOR/ OUTDOOR LIVING. Tastefully redone with 3+BD, 2.5 updated baths, a wonderful kitchen/family room combination, formal dining room and living room. Terraced yard includes ideal areas for entertaining and is filled with fruit-bearing trees and flowering plants. Lots of house, great price! \$789,000

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PiedmontAvenueLofts
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An Amazing Loft/Townhome in An Amazing Neighborhood

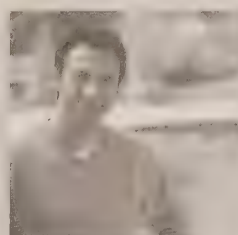
Find out why these unique urban loft/townhomes sold out in record time, just 3 years ago. This stunning features 2 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms and 3 stories of incredible space and light. Built by a quality builder with extensive use of hardwoods, architectural metal work, natural stone, acid stained and museum quality wall finishes. Soaring 24 foot ceilings are flooded with natural light, huge industrial open up vistas from every room, a spacious eat-in kitchen, and a private garage are just some of the features that make loft living here so great. Your new home is wired for cable, satellite, Cat5 phone and data—all on a local area network (LAN) within your loft. This loft has a desirable floorplan and a wonderful landscaped off 2nd bedroom. The master sleeping loft has a real sense of drama, overlooking the living area and the bathroom is a work of art with a flamed granite tile floor and oversized oval tub. The eat-in kitchen is dream of the cooks and the helpers—featuring stainless steel appliances, tons of quality work space and copious amounts of cabinetry. The sleek black granite countertops compliment the unique cherry and maple cabinets creating a beautiful look. The second bedroom is what really sets this loft apart from its competitors with a private yard, ample storage, and acid washed concrete floors - it is just perfect for guests/ a home office/ or ??

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otions

to similar properties; however, the industry routinely chooses to advise their pricing strategies. But because Lebaric's analytical in-her father is an engineer, she is a biologist - they are something firmer. They are a probabilities. She state spins such prob-lem data - from the professionally generated from those that her com-parison for a fee. She of her program is ob-vious, but the likelihood (of right now because of the been on the market) is rampant. Forget your list may likely to wait another say to the seller. "This tion, my offer is a rea-son," Lebaric says. "It's them that it's not you selling an offer. You're sense, cutting down their says some studies of be- negotiation have shown software-generated ne- gations will significantly

increase the likelihood of reaching an agreement that's more favorable to the presenter. And as far as the ability of that old E-word to materialize from out of nowhere and derail even the most mundane transactions, Lebaric says that emotion automatically is factored in when comps come from a sizable, reliable database.

"In a sense, she could be right," agrees Cook, who is reminded of writer Isaac Asimov's concept of "psychohistory," a hybrid of history, psychology and statistics that's used to predict the behavior of large populations in his "Foundations" trilogy. "It presumes that if you look out over what exists in mankind, every generation will produce a certain number of presidents, a certain number of serial killers, a certain number of home buyers at a certain level. I'm probably doing a huge disservice to Asimov in my comparison, but in (his concept), every generation will fill in all the blanks of society, all the slots will be filled."

Chicago-area real estate agents respond in less literary terms. "I already am the software," said Koenig & Strey agent Colette Cachey of North Side in Chicago. "I go look at the whole neighborhood, I look at what sold fast, what didn't. I look at the expectations of my seller, what their carrying costs are, and what they have in the bank, in terms of whether they're comfortable having a house on the market for three months."

"I talk to my sellers and show them all the facts. Ultimately, I think my odds of success are as good as (RealNegotiate's)," Cachey said. Within each deal, there are subterranean dynamics that defy formalization, Cachey says. Take, for instance, her approach to getting sellers to spruce up certain features in order for the house to sell when there's a likelihood that they'll be offended by the suggestion that their pride-and-joy isn't perfectly acceptable as is.

"Somebody told me once that a house is a child - their child. It's like in parent-teacher conferences, where the teachers have been instructed to first say nice things about the student, and then the one bad thing. In a home, you remind them that the countertops are beautiful and the location is great, but the carpet is awful."

See EMOTIONS, Page B8

Conventional wisdom holds that emotion is an ever-present wild card in home buying.

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Only the most under-priced real estate in the Bay Area"

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Open floor plan, three bedrooms, two and one half
baths, kitchen opens to large deck overlooking gardens
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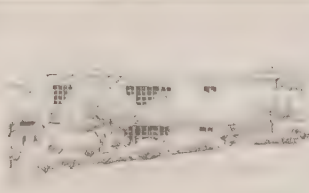
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Gracious formal living room w/ beamed ceilings, formal dining room, top-
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remodeled bath, family room, separate office.
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El Cerrito
\$945,000
Mini-villa with a view! 3 bed/vrm, 3.5 bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in
best Hills location. Completely updated kitchen and baths. Marble floors,
enormous deck. Minutes to shopping, transportation & parks. Views from
San Francisco to Mt. Tam.
8341 Kent Ct.
Tom Modic
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Albany
\$539,000
Only a few doors to Solano. New Albany listing with 3 bedroom, 1 bath.
Spacious rooms, excellent condition, gorgeous hardwood floors, lovely
garden, patio and more.
827 Cornell Ave.
Mary Gray
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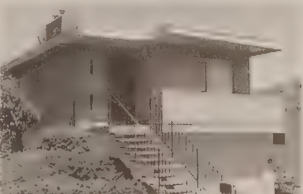
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Spectacular Bay views from this beautiful 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath condo.
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Jeri Jones
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hardwood floors, new interior paint, large one-car detached garage.
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700 Everett St.
Darrell Hoh
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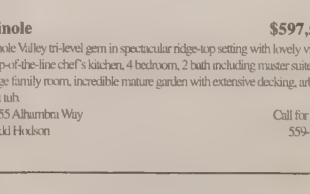
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Features a deck accessed from main bedroom. Beautiful new kitchen, new
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Joan Underwood
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Joan Underwood
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El Cerrito
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Interest-only, zero-down mortgages have drawbacks

BY SUE MCALLISTER
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

If mortgages can be fashionable, then so-called "interest-only" and "zero-down" loans are the trendy way to borrow right now.

With real estate prices rising across the country, mortgage lenders are offering these types of loans to make homeownership possible for more borrowers.

But beware. These loans are not right for everyone. Here's a quick look at interest-only and zero-down loans, along with their advantages and disadvantages.

Typically an interest-only loan is an adjustable-rate mortgage with a 30-year term, but with an introductory period - five or seven years, for example - during which borrowers are required to pay only the interest that the principal is accruing. Not all interest-only loans have a

fixed rate during the interest-only payment period.

At the end of the interest-only period, payments will rise, as the principal is amortized over the remaining term of the loan (25 years, for example). On most loans, the interest rate adjusts annually.

For a \$500,000 loan at 5.25 percent during a seven-year interest-only period, the monthly payment is \$2,188.

For a \$500,000 fixed-rate loan at 5.25 percent interest in which the borrower pays both principal and interest, the monthly payment for the full term of the loan is \$2,761.

Advantages

■ Lower monthly costs than almost any principal-and-interest mortgage. Can be a good choice for people who need or want to reserve some cash.

■ Allows borrowers to qualify for bigger mortgages. The lender approves your loan based on your ability to afford the monthly payment. So, if you can afford about \$2,000 a month, that might get you a traditional fixed-rate mortgage of \$335,000 at 6 percent, or an interest-only mortgage of \$400,000 at 6 percent.

■ Borrowers can pay up to 20 percent of their principal annually without penalty. That's helpful to those whose income fluctuates dur-

ing the year, for example those paid on commission.

■ Potentially a good choice for buyers who plan to sell or refinance before the interest-only period ends and their payments go up steeply.

"Bottom line, it allows a consumer to qualify for more mortgage, and it also provides an avenue for flexibility," said Nino Saso, branch manager of Pacific Republic Mortgage in San Jose.

See DRAWBACKS, Page B9

Emotions

FROM PAGE B7

"It's business, but it's personal," she said. "People become so connected with their real estate, and (the process) can get so feisty, I've seen it spin out of control. But my job as an agent is to manage that, calm both sides or at least one side, to keep everything in perspective."

John Veneris, of Downers Grove Realty Executives in Illinois, said "emotion comes first," no matter how meticulously the comps may have been researched.

"That (RealealNegotiate) software hasn't been inside the house," Veneris says. "I know I can speak with authority on that. You can make mathematical assumptions based on prices and square feet, but not necessarily conditions and decorating. That's where emotions do get involved."

As a side effect of her role as a widely known researcher of negotiation behavior and strategies, Margaret Neale, a professor at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, says she occasionally gets what she calls "the Sunday night phone call," usually from friends of friends who are frantically seeking advice on how to negotiate their real estate deals.

"What I often hear is, 'I've fallen in love with the house,' and the buyer can't bring himself to think of losing it in a deal. But he or she also is terrified of overpaying, she says.

In those cases, her advice usually is: You might as well pay the price and get it over with.

"You shouldn't fall in love with anything that you're going to negotiate over," Neale says. "If the buyer falls in love and says, 'I have to have the place,' well, when that is done, it dramatically constrains the negotiations. If I'm the seller and I find out you're in love, it's all over."

"What you need is an option," says the expert on negotiation. "If you're going to fall in love, then I say you'd better fall in love with two or three houses."

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<p>DANVILLE 925.314.1500</p> <p>LAFAYETTE 925.935.9100</p> <p>LIVERMORE 925.455.0505</p> <p>MONTCLAIR 510.339.8900</p>			

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Drawbacks

PAGE B8

Advantages:

Monthly payments will rise dramatically after the interest-only period and will depend on pre-set interest rates. If you are unable to refinance the loan and sell the home, the payments might not be affordable.

For choice for borrowers who know exactly what their payments will be after the initial interest period.

If you are risk-averse you're not like this program at all," said Cooper, a mortgage loan officer at Meriwest Credit Union.

Another choice for borrowers is to gain equity by paying down their principal.

A zero-down loan allows a buyer to purchase a home without committing money as a down payment. If you buy a condo for \$200,000, your mortgage will be for \$200,000. However, you will have to pay loan closing costs - typically a few thousand dollars for things as title insurance and

buyers will also require that you have at least a few months worth of savings - money in the bank, or other types of retirement accounts - investments - that would allow you to pay your mortgage in the event you lose your job, said

Scott Larson of Chase Manhattan Mortgage in Campbell.

Advantages

- Allows a buyer with little savings but sufficient income and credit to purchase a home. This option often appeals to younger people and first-time buyers, said Cooper of Meriwest.

When home prices are rising, they often outstrip people's ability to save for a down payment. But by buying a home for no money down,

buyers can start building equity quickly.

That's what Mathew and Megan Haugen of Half Moon Bay did when they bought their townhome in December for \$480,000 with a zero-down loan.

"In the past five months we've seen a 10 percent increase in the value of our home," said Mathew Haugen, 30, a salesman with an Internet ad firm. The couple hope to live in the home a few years, then borrow against their equity to buy

a larger house, while keeping the townhome as a rental. "The zero-down just allowed us to start the process much quicker," he said.

Disadvantages

- Generally speaking, if you put down less than 10 percent toward your home purchase, your lender will require you to pay for private mortgage insurance, or PMI. PMI can add thousands of dollars to your homeownership costs over the first few years of your loan.

- Interest rates for zero-down loans are typically slightly higher because of the increased risk that the borrower will default.
- If you unexpectedly need to sell your home soon after you buy, you may have gained little equity in the home, and will have to pay closing costs and any real estate sales commissions out of your own pocket.

For more information about loan types and getting a mortgage, visit these Web sites.

- www.bankrate.com, click on "Mortgages" icon at top of page
- www.hsh.com/interest-only.html (Also click on "Library" for other mortgage topics.)
- www.interest.com, click on "First Time Buyers Guide" for mortgage topics
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 6 Moore Ct - \$920,000
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 2071 San Jose Av - \$650,000
 625 Sheffield Rd - \$555,000
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 950 Shorepoint 301 - \$355,000
 950 Shorepoint Ct - \$240,000
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 1321 Webster D219 - \$354,000
 10 Whimbrel - \$540,000

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 545 Pierce 3103 - \$345,000
 914 San Pablo Av - \$690,000

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 1290 Delaware St - \$530,000
 1611 Delaware St - \$972,000
 2901 Harper St - \$407,000
 1411 Hearst 3 - \$280,000
 1390 Henry St - \$808,000
 1392 Henry St - \$787,000
 1196 Kains Av - \$423,000
 1516 MLK Jr Wy - \$701,000
 959 Miller Av - \$1,595,000
 1642 Milvia 3 - \$415,000
 1409 Oxford St - \$486,000
 1616 Sonoma - \$1,310,000
 946 Spruce St - \$1,025,000
 1916 Stuart St - \$670,000
 75 Vicente Rd - \$1,550,000
 2907 Wheeler St - \$686,000

EL CERRITO

1721 Arlington - \$720,000
 6703 Blake St - \$710,000
 545 Colusa Av - \$645,000
 1337 Everett St - \$500,000
 836 Richmond St - \$483,000
 7689 Yocka Av - \$550,000
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1248 Kilcrease Cr - \$210,000
 103 Kristen Ln - \$418,000
 3915 Marion Wy - \$496,000
 5780 Olinda Rd - \$525,000
 5290 SP Dam Rd A18 - \$160,000
 5741 Sobrante Av - \$569,000

EMERYVILLE

26 Emery Bay Dr - \$390,000
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 655 12th St 317 - \$376,500
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 6208 Hayes St - \$252,500
 3259 Helen 2 - \$359,000
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 5260 James Av - \$649,000
 3550 Jordan Rd - \$640,000
 1830 Lakeshore 111 - \$401,000
 4163 Lakeshore - \$935,000
 6114 Lawton Av - \$1,090,000
 1432 Linden St - \$311,000
 7317 Lockwood St - \$270,000
 2622 Logan St - \$385,000
 8290 MacArthur - \$625,000
 2726 Madeline St - \$440,000
 67 Mandalay Rd - \$969,000

728 Mandana Bl - \$762,000
 3539 Mangels Av - \$335,000
 3785 Manila Av - \$511,500
 5874 Margarito - \$1,435,000
 2043 Market St - \$500,000
 2326 Maywood - \$310,000
 842 Mead Av - \$300,000
 6415 Melville Dr - \$681,000
 5800 Mendoza Dr - \$850,000
 3492 Midvale Av - \$405,000
 6223 Monadnock - \$151,000
 3609 Monterey Bl - \$705,000
 2945 Myrtle St - \$270,000
 25 Neva Ct - \$1,300,000
 8301 Ney Av - \$495,000
 311 Oak 708 - \$403,500
 517 Oakwood Av - \$375,000
 6500 Oakwood Dr - \$689,000
 425 Orange 302 - \$240,000
 819 Paloma Av - \$760,000
 10473 Patricia Ct - \$279,000

10665 Pearmain Dr - \$1,000,000
 7955 Phaeton Dr - \$1,000,000
 639 Poirier St - \$1,000,000
 4251 Porter St - \$1,000,000
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See SALES Pg.

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NEW LISTING



681 Woodmont Avenue, Berkeley
 OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This lovely Monterey Colonial, (c.1928) features an ideal tranquil setting on an oversized lot! Three bedrooms, two baths, two plus rooms, living & dining room w/fireplaces. Wonderful terraced garden. Double garage.

Offered at \$749,000



SUSIE SCHEVILL
 OFFICE: 652.2133/444
 sschevill@grubbco.com
 GRUBBCO.COM



494 Boulevard Way, Piedmont

Offered at \$990,000

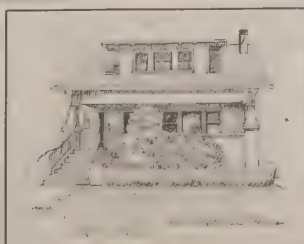


Open Sunday
 2 until 4:30

Carol Arnold
 Fine Homes Specialist
 Bus. 510 - 339 - 9290
 Cell. 510 - 333-7454



JUST LISTED



1322 Everett Avenue, Oakland
 Big Beautiful Craftsman
 Offered at \$649,000



Mark Hardwicke
 Berkeley Regional Office
 Prudential California Realty
 510.868.1527
 mark.hardwicke@prurealty.com



WELCOME HOME



Crocker Highlands
 878 Sunnyhills Road
 Offered at \$849,000

Elegant
1927 Traditional

Located in a prime area, this spacious Tudor home enjoys a lovely site that is private and surrounded by mature trees & landscaping. Features include grand sun living room, formal dining room, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, bonus room for play or office, backyard with patio and garden.

Visit www.DoloresThom.com
 For photos & more information and to view all active East Bay listings

Dolores Thom
 Fine Homes Specialist
 510/834-2010 Office
 510/835-6080 VM
 510/290-1218 Cell

OPEN SUNDAY 2 to 4



Traditional Craftsman Bungalow
 2768 Bellaire Place, Oakland
 Offered at \$429,000



A beautiful two bedroom one bath Craftsman bungalow located on a friendly and lined street. True to the form of a 1918 Craftsman, the home has newly refinished original hardwood floors throughout including the kitchen and breakfast room. Other Craftsman features include a tile fireplace and built-in bookshelves.

A rare and spacious old-fashioned front porch to sit on and admire the redwood is a welcome bonus.

Anthony Riggins
 Piedmont Office
 510.428.0900
www.anthonyriggins.com

May



John Bell
 (510) 287-9856

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3320 Grand Ave., Oakland
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June



Jackie C.
 (510) 835-...

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Glass Sabine

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Judith Glass
 510.326.7929
Judith@GlassSabine.com



Sheila Sabino
 510.326.5893
Sheila@GlassSabine.com

COMING SOON

4BR/3+BA
 including a
 potential in-law
 Close to BART
 and the shops
 restaurants of
 College Avenue

Sales
PAGE B10
145 Taurus Av - \$1,200,000
1391 Telegraph - \$935,000
10000 Linn - \$1,241,000
10000 Topanga - \$315,000
15 Turtle Creek - \$557,000
300 Vernon 306 - \$279,000
3008 Viewcrest - \$801,500
144 Village Cr - \$365,000
308 Walavista - \$1,075,000
309 Walnut St - \$385,000
1036 Willow St - \$477,500
1015 Woodruff Hill - \$795,000
1421 Woodruff Av - \$630,000
1421 Worden Wy - \$531,000
258 Wyman St - \$240,000
409 Zinn Dr - \$735,000

Montclair
12 Monte Vista - \$1,627,000
123 Palm Dr - \$836,500
181 St. James - \$1,360,000
10 York Dr - \$800,000

Montclair
149 10th St - \$235,000
101 11th St - \$275,000
105 15th St - \$265,000
107 20th St - \$520,000
100 21st St - \$390,000
105 30th St - \$325,000
103 31st St - \$356,000
105 36th St - \$460,000
107 44th St - \$333,500
104 5th St - \$315,000
100 Alamo Av - \$360,000
100 Brickyard 106 - \$443,500
101 Brickyard 306 - \$510,000
101 Center Av - \$285,000
104 Chanslor Av - \$280,000
1041 Downer Av - \$294,000
1010 Esmond Av - \$355,000
1034 Garvin Av - \$453,000
1025 Gaynor Av - \$370,000
109 Gertrude Av - \$100,000
105 Gilma Dr - \$335,000
1022 Grant Av - \$385,000
1038 Howard St - \$420,000
107 Humboldt St - \$485,000
1024 Landmark - \$470,500
1024 Landmark - \$438,500
104 Maine Av - \$335,000
107 Market Av - \$196,000
1056 Monterey Av - \$385,000
104 Park Ln - \$263,000
1056 Park Ridge Dr - \$663,000
1058 Park Ridge Dr - \$326,50

The GRUBB Co.
NEW LISTING

*Seven Units
Close to UC Campus*

2438 Warring Street, Berkeley
By APPOINTMENT. Great income opportunity! Seven units near UC campus! Less than 10 times gross with no vacancies! Each unit is charming and special.
Offered at \$995,000

BEBE McRAE
OFFICE: 3652.2133/415
bmcrac@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

OPEN SUNDAY



2515 Castello Street
Oakland, CA
Offered at \$539,000

Prudential
California Realty

This pristine Mediterranean revival is located on historic Castello Street. Sunny and spacious with three large bedrooms, its delightful architectural details include tiled fireplace and arched ceiling.
Open Sunday 2-5.

Kate Tanaka
Piedmont Office
Prudential California Realty
510.914.8355
510.466.5195

The Difference between Show... & Sell!



800 Begier Ave., San Leandro
Instantly Appealing! This 2 BD 1 BA split-level exudes the warmth & charm of the 1930's. Simple elegance, arched windows & doorways, cozy fireplace, hardwood floors, formal dining room. Bright eat-in kitchen. Large laundry/utility room with lots of storage. Attached garage. Tranquil & enchanting garden in verdant park-like setting. Most desirable Estudillo Estates.
Offered at \$459,900



ALIKY VASDEKIS
www.purealty.com/AlikyVasdekis
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(510) 869-5342



2629 Carquinez Ave., El Cerrito
Magnificent Cape Cod style charmer in El Cerrito Hills... 2 BD/1 BA with a Bonus room. Move-in condition, oak floors, formal dining with French doors opening to peaceful backyard. Close to Tehiyah School.
Offered at \$470,000

Prudential
California Realty

What is your property worth in today's market? Call Aliky for a free property evaluation.

See SALES, Page B12

Prudential
California Realty

FEATURED HOMES



Claremont Maybeck \$1,799,000
Elegant 1915 Maybeck on beautiful street. Spacious rooms + in-law.
5BR/3BA.
Julie Lehman (510) 845-0211



OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$775,000
161 Ronada, Piedmont. Charming mid-century with Bay view.
Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1487



OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$649,000
1322 Everett, Oakland. 4BR/2BA craftsman, frpic, din rm, near shops, hwdw floors, garden.
Mark Hardwicke (510) 868-1527



Talk About Views! \$599,000
3BR/2BA home, remod EIK. New baths, great patio, yard, good storage!
Klein/McNeill (510) 428-0900



OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$429,000
2768 Bellaire Place. 2BR/1BA craftsman bungalow, original hwdw, frpic, great street.
Anthony Riggins (510) 428-0900

Oakland/Piedmont

OPEN Sunday 1:30-4 \$1,575,000
3065 Elverton Dr. 4800 sq. ft. Architectural gem. Spectacular views.
Cal Fox (510) 774-5554

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,375,000
1808 Melvin Rd. Quality 5BR/3.5BA, new construction in Oakmore!
Mark C. Ross (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 1:30-4 \$1,075,000
1715 Elverton. Stunning 4BR/3BA, pano day views. Stylish gem. Virtual tour @ www.purealty.com/calfox
Cal Fox (925) 283-7000

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$990,000
4445 Boulevard Wy. Piedmont. Spacious 4BR/2BA home loaded w/ details.
Carol Arnold (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$949,000
500 Hancock Cir. Beaut. 4BR/3BA. Large open yard - "Perfect 10".
Marlene Marshall (510) 428-0900

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$905,000
1000 Sheridan Road. Lovely 5BR/4BA, 2500 sq. ft. on corner lot w/ views.
Katie Oshea (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$549,000
10000 Lafayette Ave. Charming 4BR/1BA Sniffeld Village traditional.
David Thero.com (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday \$539,000
1000 Castello. Spacious 3BR/1.5BA on historic covered street.
Kate Tanaka (510) 428-0900

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$495,000
1000 Alcatraz. Charming 2+BR craftsman home in garden setting.
Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1487

Oakland/Piedmont

OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$479,500
3938 Burkhalter. 3BR/2BA adorable bungalow. New stainless kit, lg garden.
Shirley Covington (510) 834-2010

OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$450,000
728 Campbell St. Victorian on dbl lot close to BART. EZ to twy.
Cynthia Johnson (510) 868-1549

OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$419,000
3039 California. Charming bungalow, new kitchen w/ granite.
Latarsha Banks (510) 834-2010

OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$325,000
250 Whitmore. Condo - rare 2BR/2BA. Pool, spa, location! Special!
N. Platford (510) 845-0211

Alameda

OPEN Sat & Sun 2-5 \$599,000
3220 Liberty Ave. 3+BR/1BA. Tour: www.purealty.com/alameda
Nancy Blom (510) 337-8670

Berkeley

OPEN Sat & Sun 2-4:30 \$529,000
1820 Arch St. 2BR/1BA, unique Brittney Village, next UC campus.
Wendy T. Louie (510) 851-9888

OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$425,000
1543 & 1545 Prince. 2080 sq. ft. of new const. 5BR/3.5BA detached townhouse.
Laura Margulius (510) 868-1400

San Leandro

OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$459,900
800 Begier Ave. Charming 2BR/1BA, hwdw flrs, FDR, frpic, yard/garden.
Aliky Vasdekis (510) 845-0211

PruRealty.com
1click
View all luxury listings for sale.

Richmond

OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$329,000
1513 San Joaquin. Sweet 2BR/1BA. New carpets, windows, large yard.
Amy & Rod David (510) 868-1465

Residential Income

OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$725,000
845 Appar St., Oakland. Lg 4 plex.
3BR/1.5BA, 3 units are 2BR/1BA.
Muriel Watkins-Dixon (510) 834-2010

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$675,000
1636-1638 Vista St., Oakland. Glenview duplex, 2BR/1BA, 1 BR/1BA.
Robbie Powell (510) 428-0900

Residential Income

3BR/1BA Home \$660,000
4445 Moraga Ave., Oakland. Lg yard, great location.
Lisa Quirros (510) 845-0211

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$659,000
3022 Shattuck, Berkeley. Great 2BR/1BA owners unit + 3BR/1BA upper near BART.
Michael Stephens (510) 339-9290

New Oakland \$600,000
4-plex. 1BR ea, prk spaces, hwdw flrs, near Children's Hospital.
Carmen Grim (510) 845-0211

Free Home

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,425,000
6801 Colton. Completely remodeled 4+BR/3BA w/ breathtaking GG view.
Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

Residential Income

OPEN Sunday \$575,000
1061 & 1063 59th St., Oakland. Income property - triplex.
Linda W. Lam (510) 834-2010

OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$560,000
679-681 62nd St., Oakland. Duplex, hwdw, 2+BR up, 1BA down. Don't miss!
June McDaniels (510) 866-9668

OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$538,000
5117 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 5 units Victorian. Live-in and earn.
Reeching Prize (510) 337-8670

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Whether you're a renter or homeowner, there's help on the Web

BY HANG NGUYEN
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Lists of apartments for rent. Demographics of the area where homes are for sale. Guides to buying foreclosed homes. Mortgage calculators.

The Internet offers that information and much more for consumers interested in real estate.

But if you punch "real estate" into the Google search engine, it returns more than 14 million hits. How to find the Web sites you can rely on?

With help from real estate experts, here's a selection of recommended sites, with an explanation of what's good and what's not so good about them:

APARTMENTS

Not only can renters surf for apartment leads, they can also find ratings for some complexes and sign up for new services online when they move into the apartment.

Apartmentratings.com: You're deciding whether to move into an apartment complex, and you wish you knew someone who could give you the lowdown on the place? This is the site for you.

Here, renters go online to say good and bad things about the communities where they live. They rank the complex's parking, maintenance, noise, safety and office staff, and even landlords pay attention.

"This is a scary one for our industry," said Lynn Klug, marketing director for Sares-Regis, a large landlord in Orange County, Calif.

But Web site users should be wary, because renters' comments aren't verified. "If nothing else, it provides for a few good laughs," said John Burns, real estate consultant in Irvine, Calif.

Aaconnect.com lets new renters and homeowners change their address so their mail will be forwarded to the new location and sign up for telephone service, cable service and high-speed Internet access. The idea is to save people time from having to contact each company individually.

The vendors on the free site guarantee the lowest prices and consumers can compare the prices from as many as three companies. Depending on what area you live in, certain basic services aren't available for online sign-ups. People who use the site to sign up for services can return there to cancel when they leave.

Rent.com offers \$100 back for shoppers who find their apartment on its Web site. This Web site, like many other rental Web sites, lets you know what kinds of apartments are in the area, and then you would have to contact the landlord to see what is available.

The search options are more advanced than some other sites. If you are a pet lover, you can narrow your search to find only places that will take dogs or cats. This is cool because some apartment Web sites aren't as specific - they only mention policies about pets in general. You can search by type of parking (covered or detached) and location of the washer and dryer (inside the apartment or in a separate room).

Apartmentguide.com: You can search for apartments that offer disability access, short-term lease, furniture, dishwasher, microwave or balcony.

The searches produce a list of apartments in an easy-to-read chart that shows the number of bed-

rooms, price and city for each one. If you click on an apartment, you can find out the security deposit required, set up appointments to see the place or e-mail questions to the leasing office.

FOR-SALE HOMES

Buyers can look for all types of homes online, get community statistics and be alerted when new homes go up for sale.

Homeseekers.com provides a wealth of information on new and resale homes and the neighborhoods they are in.

In addition to a description and photo of a home, the site provides the information on the ZIP code's demographics; crime statistics; housing prices; family facts, like the number of singles and couples with children; education, like the number of area residents who have college degrees; economy, like unemployment rates; health, like the number of doctors in the area; and weather.

This information is updated quarterly. Another advantage: You don't have to register to use the site. A slight downside: The only contact

information is an e-mail address for the listing agent.

Realtor.com, which also allows you to search for homes without registering, gives you much less information on the property than homeseekers.com, but provides you with the listing agency and a telephone number.

Homegain.com: The cool feature here is that you can search for new homes by category: available now, under construction, or ready to build.

Catalisthomes.com will offer a new service within a week. Would-be buyers who just provide an e-mail address and a description of the home they want to buy will be alerted whenever a property that fits their parameters is added to the Multiple Listing Service. The e-mail alert comes with the listing agent's name and telephone number, even if the Realtor is not a Catalist Homes agent. One drawback: Catalist may not receive the new home listings until 24 hours after the information pops up on the MLS.

See WEB, Page B16

Sales

FROM PAGE B11

5101 Prather Av - \$380,000
2209 Roosevelt Av - \$310,000
3932 Selmi Grove - \$595,000
2722 Sheldon Dr - \$435,000
224 South 3rd St - \$210,000
414 South 49th St - \$182,000
327 South 5th St - \$345,000
312 South St - \$250,000
5433 Victoria Ln - \$585,000
149 West Gertrude - \$282,500

SAN LEANDRO

1674 164th Av - \$315,000
2384 Belvedere Av - \$417,000
728 Callaway St - \$680,000
1400 Carpenter St - \$340,000
14578 Corvallis St - \$453,000
1912 Dayton Av - \$420,000
13560 Doolittle Dr - \$465,000
408 East 14th St - \$486,000
2265 Fiji Wy - \$462,000
2145 Hillside Dr - \$583,000
15420 Maureen St - \$450,000
15572 Maureen St - \$512,000
14016 Outrigger 11 - \$375,000
398 Parrott 306 - \$270,000
283 Peralta Av - \$395,000
655 Pershing Dr - \$577,000
16786 Rolando Av - \$395,000
2240 Strang Av - \$415,000
591 Superior Av - \$440,000
572 Thornton St - \$435,000

701 Tivoli St - \$669,500
780 Woodland Av - \$585,000

SAN LORENZO

16643 Ashland Av - \$550,000
1322 Culver Pl - \$347,000
15397 Dermody - \$402,000
753 Galway Dr - \$385,000
923 Via Enrico - \$425,000
17249 Via Magdalena - \$430,000
15764 Via Sonata - \$540,000
65 Via Verde - \$500,500

By the numbers

ALABAMA

TOTAL SALES: 22

LOWEST PRICE: \$240,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$600,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$550,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$550,000

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$300,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$580,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$580,000

See SALES, Page B16

Windermere Properties of the East Bay Pres



Gorgeous, Dramatic, Fantastic Townhome in Harbor Bay

102 Chinaberry Lane, Alameda
This nearly 2400 square foot detached townhome has everything: 4 full bedrooms, 3 full updated baths, large living room with fireplace, vaulted ceilings, separate dining room, and an updated kitchen with a family room, and a full-size office which could be another bedroom. The floors gracefully and gradually over five levels, with decks off of many of the rooms and patios off of the 2 lower-level bedrooms. There are paths lead best schools, shopping, parks, and lagoon and shoreline. The complex has its own pool and spa and has 24 hour security. This is an unusual floor plan which comes on infrequently, and will not last in this market.
Asking \$699,000



PETER FLETCHER
510-521-1177
pfbroker@windermere.com

Windermere
Properties of the East Bay

4309 Hacienda Drive, Suite 150 • Pleasanton CA 94588 • (925) 428-1111

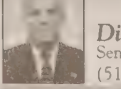
OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2-4:30PM



8040 Shepherd Canyon Road, Oakland

Extensively remodeled charming 3BR/2BA home nestled in private setting. Welcoming front patio pairs well with the large back yard. Wonderful family room with wet bar. Office/possible 4th bedroom. 1 car attached garage.

Offered at \$695,000



Dick Cohen
Senior Sales Associate
(510) 338-1308

OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2-4:30PM



6771 Armour Drive, Oakland

Charming, secluded 1930 bay view home. 3BR/2BA including master suite. Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings. Beautifully landscaped gardens and lovely private patios take advantage of the gorgeous bay view.

Offered at \$795,000



Donna DeBardi
SENIOR SALES ASSOCIATE
510/338-1374

OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2-4:30PM

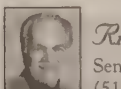


6031 Chaboly Terrace, Rockridge

This beautiful 3+ bedroom/2 bath home located at the Oakland/Rockridge border, offers an updated kitchen, formal dining room w/floor-to-ceiling view, living room w/fireplace, random oak plank floors & a full bath on the main entry level. The upper level offers 3 bedrooms, 1 bath and the sunny terraced rear yard w/patio. On the lower level, an office w/room & access to the 2 car garage complete the picture. Close to restaurants & transportation.

View online at www.6031Chaboly.com

Offered at \$769,000



Richard Gould
Senior Sales Associate
(510) 338-1347

UPPER LAUREL
OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2-4:30PM

4129 39th Avenue, cross street Victor Avenue
Exceptionally serene, sun-filled 4 bedroom/2 bath home. Level-in to spacious elegant living room and dining room. **BAY AND CITY VIEWS FROM SEVERAL ROOMS IN THE HOUSE.** Gorgeous master bedroom suite on lower level with sitting room, marble wet bar and Italian lighting. French doors open to private wooded setting with garden pond, and beautiful garden. Multi-level deck made with trek and redwood, has 2 bridge, bay & city views. A home not to be missed. Lot size approx. 11,760 sq. ft.

Offered at \$599,500

Diane Earl McCan
REDWOOD HEIGHTS & LAUREL SPECIALIST
(510) 338-1352
Visit my website: www.dianemccan.com
www.pacunion.com

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate

SIMPLIFY, SIMPLIFY, SIMPLIFY... with unit 205 at the beautifully maintained Heritage of Claremont, featuring a panoramic Bay view, and newly redone throughout.

- ◆ 2 bedrooms, 2 baths
- ◆ NEW bamboo flooring
- ◆ NEW carpet
- ◆ NEW granite counters
- ◆ NEW paint and fixtures
- ◆ Close to laundry and elevator

5340 Broadway Terrace, #205
Offered at \$435,000

DEBI FITZGERRELL, ASSOCIATE BROKER
510 338-1306 ♦ dfitzgerrell@pacunion.com

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GLASS / SABINE
YOUR FINE HOMES SPECIALISTS

Opulent Oakland Hills Masterpiece
Offered at \$4,500,000
Now Available for Showings

Glass Sabine

For more information on this property, check our website at www.GlassSabine.com or contact us for a private showing.

Judith Glass
510.326.7929
Judith@GlassSabine.com

Sheila Sabine
510.326.5055
Sheila@GlassSabine.com

Prudential
California Realty

Hills Newspapers: Your number one source for up-to-date East Bay real estate information.

GRUBB Co.



5616 LaSalle Avenue, Oakland

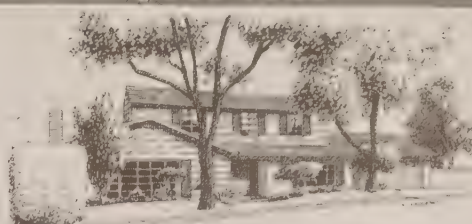
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Elegant new traditional in LaSalle Estates (gated) on the Piedmont Side of Montclair, with panoramic views of the Bay. Five bedrooms five and one half baths, library, family room, expansive terraces and knockout master bathroom with fireplace. Two adjacent lots also available.

New Price! \$2,598,000

DEBRA J. DRYDEN, CRS
BROKER ASSOCIATE
OFFICE: 339.0400/208
dryden@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

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Photo Tours
of this and other current listings.

JUST SOLD



191 St. James Drive, Piedmont

Offered at \$1,250,000. Sold with 3 offers



REPRESENTED THE SELLERS
DEBI FITZGERRELL
BROKER ASSOCIATE
(510) 338-1306



REPRESENTED THE BUYERS
ROSELIE WOODS
BROKER ASSOCIATE
(510) 338-1324



COMING SOON IN REDWOOD HEIGHTS



66 Gregory Place, Oakland

Stately ranch style home located at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac in desirable Redwood Heights. Features 4+ bedrooms and 2 baths with usable attic space. The living room and adjoining dining room is spacious with good sun exposure. Deep rear yard has a private wooded feeling with space for gardening. Patio and detached garage.

Offered at \$619,500 "As Is"

Diane Earl McCan

REDWOOD HEIGHTS & LAUREL SPECIALIST
(510) 338-1352

Visit my website: www.dianemccan.com

www.pacunion.com



THE BEST OF ALBANY!

OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2-4PM

729 Curtis Street, Albany

This 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath bungalow exudes the warmth and charm of the 1920's. The focal point of the home is an expansive, magical garden, overlooked by the sunny breakfast or family room, two of three bedrooms, and a detached writer's retreat. Solano Avenue's shops and eateries are nearby!



Offered at \$650,000



LORRI ROSENBERG ARAZI
BROKER ASSOCIATE (510) 338-1330
www.LorriArazi.com



MONTCLAIR \$1,525,000
3840 BROADWAY TERR. (Open 2-4:30)
Spectacular sunsets & 3-bridge views.
Stunning 4+BR/4.5BA contemporary.
Designer kitchen, library, secluded
garden. David Ichikawa x1331

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,350,000
4100 KILMATH ST. (Open 2-4:30)
The latest Perkins/Lee creation.
Stunning 4BR/3.5BA contemporary w/fabulous
bay views. Masterfully designed built-in
cabinetry. David Ichikawa x1331

MONTCLAIR \$1,195,000
1801 MANZANITA DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Spectacular 5 bridge view! Spacious
remodeled 4+BR/3.5BA home. Vaulted
ceilings, walls of glass, open floor plan.
Dryden office & in-law. Michelle Vasey x1359

MONTCLAIR \$1,195,000
3500 SERRAVALLO DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Stunning GG/SF bay views. Custom
designed 4BR/2.5BA contemporary.
Quiet cul-de-sac. Study, family room,
gymnasium. Mary Montali x1350

CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,175,000
1000 GRAVATT DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Elegant & sophisticated 3+BR/3BA custom
home. Beautiful hardwood floors, a free-
standing galvanized steel fireplace, decks &
bay views. Carla Buffington x1367

LEONA HEIGHTS \$829,000
1000 LEONA ST. (Open 2-4:30)
A beautiful 1-story custom home built in 2003.
Luxurious master suite. Open floor
plan with high quality kitchen & exceptional
interior space. Donna Costella x1355

MONTCLAIR \$819,000
1000 HILTELRWOOD DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Stunningly exciting 3+BR/2.5BA
home in wooded setting. FDR, eat-in
kitchen area, deck & hot tub. Recently
red. Wendy Gardner-Ferrari x1303

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

www.pacunion.com

Open Sunday

MONTCLAIR \$799,000
6 CHAMBERS LN. (Open 2-4:30)
Stunning 4BR/2BA contemporary w/
open floor plan opening onto spacious
deck. Updated kitchen, vaulted ceilings.
Large lot. Michelle Vasey x1359

MONTCLAIR \$795,000
6771 ARMOUR DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming, secluded 1930 bay view home.
3BR/2BA including master suite. Hardwood
floors, vaulted ceilings. Landscaped gardens
& private patio. Donna DeBardi x1374

ROCKRIDGE \$769,000
6031 CHABOLYN TERR. (Open 2-4:30)
3+BR/2BA, wonderful location, mid-
century contemporary w/updated kitchen,
formal dining room, sunny terraced yard
w/patio. 2-car garage. Joanna Gould x1346

BERKELEY \$750,000
1044 KEITH AVE (Open 2-4:30)
Mid-Century Modern 5BR/3BA w/
soaring ceilings and walls of glass.
Bathed in sunlight. Surrounded by
trees. Jack McPhail x1336

GRAND LAKE \$699,000
178-180 SANTA CLARA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Well-maintained duplex w/large level
yard. 2BR/1.5BA unit w/FDR, fireplace,
deck & yard. 3BR/1.5BA unit w/flexible
floor plan & fireplace. Wendy Gardner-
Ferrari x1303

Open Sunday

MONTCLAIR \$695,000
8040 SHEPHERD CANYON RD. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Charming 3BR/2BA home
in private setting. Office/4th bedroom,
family room w/wet bar. Attached
garage. Close to Regional Parks. Dick
Cohen x1308

ALBANY \$650,000
729 CURTIS ST. (Open 2-4)
3BR/1.5BA Bungalow w/1920s warmth
& charm. Expansive, magical garden.
Sunny arium room, home office, de-
tached writer's retreat. Near Solano Ave.
Lorri Arazi x1330

OAKLAND HILLS \$629,000
4100 MALCOLM AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Sunny 2BR/2BA traditional on lovely
corner lot. Extensively remodeled.
Beautiful landscaped private yard w/fish
pond. Keith Tollas x1382

OAKLAND HILLS \$619,000
4255 MALCOLM AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Impeccably maintained, spacious one
level 3+BR/2BA home surrounded by
private garden. Large atrium w/walls of
glass. Great storage. Attached 2-car gar-
age with workbench. Ann Nichols x1319

UPPER LAUREL \$599,500
4129 39TH AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Serene, sun-filled 4BR/2BA home. Bay
& city views from several rooms.
Gorgeous master bedroom. French doors
to private wooded setting & beautiful
garden. Diane Earl McCan x1352

SAN LEANDRO \$595,000
900 LEE AVE. (Open 1-4)
Classic Spanish Mediterranean 2+BR/
1BA. Meticulously remodeled. Features
a gourmet kitchen & state-of-the-art
walk-in wine cellar. Terri Carlisle x1305

Open Sunday

GLENVIEW \$579,000
3819 BRIGHTON AVE. (Open 2-5)
Sunny 3+BR/1+BA Bungalow. Great
details & large landscaped yard. Formal
dining room w/built-ins. Hardwood
floors. Christian Downer x1340

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$559,000
3280 GUIDO ST. (Open 2-4:30)
2BR/1.25BA Mediterranean. Vaulted ceiling,
arched windows, refinished hwdw flrs,
updated eat-in kitchen. Lee Jacobson x1309

UPPER DIMOND \$449,000
3917 WHITTLE AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Adorable storybook cottage in a lush
creekside setting. Spacious 2BR/1BA.
Corner fireplace, hrdwd floors, Wedgewood
stove. Great location. Steven Biasatti x1379

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$435,000
5340 BROADWAY TERR. #205 (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! 2BR/2BA unit at the beauti-
fully maintained Heritage of Claremont.
Sweeping bay view. Redone bamboo floor-
ing, carpet, counters & more. Debi Fitzgerald x1306

LAUREL \$289,000
3824B 39TH AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Inviting 2-story 2BR/
2.5BA Townhome. Recently refurbished.
Fireplace in living room. Private
garden & patio. Leslie Avant x1341

PIEDMONT AVENUE \$279,000
1 KELTON CT. #6E (Open 2-4:30)
1BR/1BA condominium. High-rise on cul-
de-sac near Piedmont Ave. Great bay & hills
views from living room, bedroom & balcony.
Easy commute to SF. Peggy Dubois x1386

By Appointment

BERKELEY \$2,950,000
Stunning 4+BR/4BA contemporary in
spectacular setting. Extensively remodel-
ed. Floor to ceiling windows. A work
of art! Nancy Noman x1373

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$2,850,000
Stately Normandy on privately situated
approximately 2/3 acre. Large main
house, guest cottage, conservatory. Views.
4BR/4.5BA. David Ichikawa x1331

GRAND LAKE \$989,000
Stately duplex. 3BR/1BA units w/FDR, fire-
place, hardwood floors, individual garages.
Rich architectural details. Individual base-
ments with laundry. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

MONTCLAIR \$659,000
Sunny 3BR cottage on level lot. New chef's
kitchen. Large living rm w/fireplace &
hardwood. Lovely gardens. Garage. Many
upgrades. Donna DeBardi x1374

ROCKRIDGE \$659,000
Wonderful updated 3+BR/2BA Edwardian
style home w/beautiful architectural details.
Large deck & garden, charming sunroom.
Great location near shopping & commutes.
Leslie Avant x1341

SAN LEANDRO \$529,000
Classic 3BR/2BA traditional. Updated
kitchen, hardwood floors, lush garden w/
redwood deck & spa. Candy Benny x1328

Coming Soon

BERKELEY price upon request
Big beautiful traditional home with
4+BR/3BA. Located in one of Berkeley's
most sought after neighborhoods.
Leslie Easterday x1363

MONTCLAIR \$989,000
Pristine views of San Francisco Bay.
Montclair Hills 3BR/2.5BA home.
Kitchen/family room combo, sumptu-
ous master suite. Donna Costella x1355

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$619,500
Lovely 5BR/2BA Ranch style home.
Spacious living rm w/adjointing dining
rm. Private wooded feeling w/space for
gardening. Diane Earl McCan x1352

Sales

FROM PAGE B12

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 21
LOWEST PRICE: \$280,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,595,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$670,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$727,571

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$463,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$720,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$550,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$581,643

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$160,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$569,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$496,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$396,333

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$369,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$390,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$379,500

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$622,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 138
LOWEST PRICE: \$151,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,435,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$409,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$504,638

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$800,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,627,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$1,360,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$1,155,875

RICEMOND

TOTAL SALES: 43
LOWEST PRICE: \$100,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$663,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$351,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$361,698

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 22
LOWEST PRICE: \$270,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$680,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$450,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$460,886

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST PRICE: \$347,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$550,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$430,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$447,438

This list is provided by Resource, a real estate company that obtains information from the County Recorder. Neither California Real Estate nor this newspaper guarantee the accuracy of the information.

TRANQUIL OAKLAND HILLS



8151 Surrey Lane, Oakland

Impeccably maintained Sequoyah Hills rancher. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 1900 sq. ft. Large .27 acre lot. Beautifully landscaped yards & deck with RV/boat parking. Lots more!!!

\$675,000

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Coon & McCreary

Laurie North
925-408-0293



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2857 Morley Drive, Montclair

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Escape to your country retreat just minutes from Montclair Village! Stylish two plus bedroom mid-century on large lot offers Bay views, sunny patio for dining al fresco, multi purpose rumpus, serene wooded setting and outdoor spa. Offered at \$ 599,000



JUDITH CAIN

OFFICE: 339.0400/209
cain@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

The GRUBB Co.

NEW LISTING



1070 Masonic Avenue, Albany

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This classic 2+ bedroom, 2 bath split-level home has spacious sun-filled rooms, inviting lawn and grounds ideal for recreation and play, and moments from Albany schools and Solano Avenue dining, shopping and transportation. Offered at \$575,000



JOHN & JUDITH RATCLIFFE

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BRAND NEW LISTING:
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2017 EAGLE AVE.
Many upgrades! Upper unit: approx. 2200 sq. ft. Lower unit: approx. 1700 sq. ft. \$799,000

1234 PEAKE CT.
2 Units - Front 1800 sq. ft. Rear: Studio Charming! **SOLD** Or Ideal for Extended Family! \$425,000

3216 FIR AVE.
Outstanding 4BD/2.5BA townhome in Island! **SOLD** Many upgrades! \$495,000

CASTRO VALLEY
4419 EWING RD.
4BD/3.5BA Elegant home w/many upgrades. Single level. Approx. 3500 sq. ft. Lot size approx. 14,920 sq. ft. \$975,000

SAN LEANDRO
BRAND NEW LISTING:
14009 SEAGATE DRIVE
3BD/2.5BA. Largest model at Marina Seagate. 2-car attached garage. **SOLD** \$465,000

13917 SEAGATE DRIVE
3BD/2.5BA. 2-story townhouse style. **SOLD** \$427,000

14271 SEAGATE DRIVE
2BD/1.5BA. **SOLD** townhouse-style \$319,000

OPEN SUNDAY 2-5



1455 Portland Avenue, Albany

Central Albany 3BD/1.5BA Spanish/Mediterranean charmer on generous landscaped corner lot. Elegant sunken living room, formal dining room, hardwood floors, original architectural detail. Close to schools and Solano Ave. shops and restaurants. Must see this one! \$629,000

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\$775,000

Immaculate 3 bedroom 2 bath home with sweeping bay views in charming Oakmore.

Bright and quiet, with an open floor plan and picture windows, it is perfect for entertaining and is eminently livable. Other features include hardwood floors, large landscaped yard with patio, deck off living area, garage, and extra storage. Joaquin Miller Schools. Approx 1,970 sq. ft.

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2225 Spyglass Lane, El Cerrito \$ 849,500

- * A Home with million-dollar view
- * Family room with double sliding doors to the garden. Golf greens and a 180' sweeping vista
- * Gigantic master suite with fireplace, glorious bath and huge walk-in
- * 3 fireplaces: Livingroom, Family room & Master Bedroom
- * Gourmet Kitchen with Jenn-Air appliances, instant hot water dispensers, trash compactor and greenhouse windows
- * Outdoor spa under the stars anyone? And so much more....

OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4 PM

OAKLAND \$239,000 Spacious 2 Bedrooms and 1 Bath House. Contractor's fixer-upper!!!!
FREMONT \$149,000 Business Opportunity! Restaurant/Fremont. 50 seats in / out. Location CALL!!!

NEW LISTINGS

FOR OVER 50 YEARS, OUR CLIENTS' SUCCESS HAS BEEN OUR SUCCESS



OAKLAND \$ 1,098,000



OAKLAND \$ 649,500



BERKELEY \$ 1,150,000



NORTH OAKLAND \$850,000

5 years young 4 BD/3 BA custom built. Unbelievable 180' panoramic view. Bright & sunny with high ceilings. Open floor plan and great landscaping. Gourmet chef kitchen with granite. Quality construction of stone, marble. Gleaming hardwood floors and more. **OAKLAND - 6 Studios \$349,500** Nice corner lot. Near Piedmont Kaiser Hospital. 12 to 15 min to BART. Shop, store, house, in great neighborhood. **BERKELEY - 6 Units \$1,150,000** Near Whole Foods. Close to BART. 2-unit front building w/3BD & 4BD. 4-unit building in rear w/2BD & 2BA. Commercial w/4 retail spaces. Large corner lot w/ high VISIBILITY & high TRAFFIC. Plenty of off street parking. Call on this wonder!

\$\$\$\$\$

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Web

FROM PAGE B12

CALCULATORS, ETC.

Find out what mortgage rates local banks are offering and calculate the monthly payment for different types of mortgages.

Bankrate.com: Select the mortgage you want, from a conforming loan to a jumbo loan to an adjustable-rate loan to a government low-income loan. The search produces a list of local banks, what rates they are offering, telephone numbers and links to the companies' Web sites.

If you are a serial refiner and want to be on top of continually changing mortgage rates, you can choose to be alerted via e-mail when mortgage rates hit a certain level.

Calculators tell you how much house you can afford and your FICO score range - a credit-rating number that lenders look at to determine what mortgage rate to offer you.

Also, if you are a renter, you can take a quick quiz that tells whether you would qualify for a mortgage and whether it would make sense financially for you to buy a home.

Decisionaide.com helps borrowers figure out whether they can afford a certain house. It also calculates and compares the monthly payments for five different types of loans.

If you are sitting on the fence about whether to refinance, there is a calculator for you. It tells you how much money you could save and when the monthly savings from refinancing would total the upfront costs of refinancing.

If you put down less than 20 percent and did not take out a second loan, this site will tell you how long you will have to pay mortgage insurance.

Don't know whether you are better off buying a home now with a small or no down payment or saving for a down payment first and buying later? There is a calculator for that, too.

The site also crunches numbers to help you decide whether to pay points, which each cost 1 percent of your mortgage balance, to reduce your mortgage rate.

Domania.com estimates how much property tax you'd have to pay in a newly purchased home. Just enter an address and pick a recently sold house that's most comparable to yours.

See WEB, Page B17

THIS WEEK'S OPEN HOME GUIDE IS ON B21.

Open Sat & Sun 2-4pm



5992 Chelton Drive, Oakland

Open Saturday and Sunday 2-4:00PM

Beautifully maintained home in serene canyon setting backing City parkland with filtered Bay view, freshly landscaped and fenced. Designer colors throughout, hardwood floors, large family room with built-in bookcases, sunny deck, new roof, large unfinished basement. Located in Piedmont Pines area, Oakland's best-kept secrets with easy access commute, minutes from Montclair Village and excellent schools.

\$797,000

Barbara Price

Wall Street Realty

510-769-0547 • Wallstrlty@aol.com

3 New Listings



Stunning

#238 - Custom home over 3000 sq. ft. on quiet cul-de-sac street. Adjacent to Regional Park walking trail. Great views of Mt. Tam, beautiful hwdw flrs, gourmet kitchen. All bedrooms have private view decks. Great custom details! Must see!

\$1,395,000



6812 Tahoe Pl., El Cerrito

#242 - Spacious 3 bdrm Walker built "Gem" home in sought after neighborhood - just two blocks from Plaza & BART - offers large level lot, attached garage, dual pane windows

\$509,500



728 Geiston Pl., El Cerrito

#188 - Magnificent panoramic Bay views in spacious 3BD/2.5BA. Features large living room, dining area, kitchen w/ breakfast room, family/play room, double garage w/ workshop

\$825,000

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Oakland



Vince Wirthman
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1891 Solano Avenue
Berkeley



Gwen Hoople
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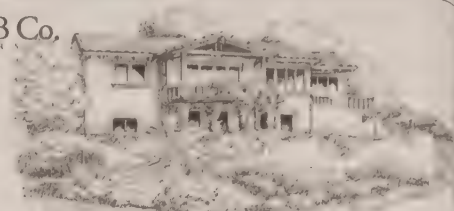


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NEW LISTING



260 Alvarado Road, Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A wonderful location in the Claremont Hills featuring Bay area most rooms. Only nine years old, this home offers great indoor and outdoor space in and entertain family and friends. There are four bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms including a master suite. Great separation of space.

Offered at \$1,395,000



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NEW LISTING



4006 Brighton Avenue, Glenview

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Great Glenview location, close to shops, restaurants and carpool for commuting. This home features two bedrooms, one bath up, plus a full bath down with a separate entrance. Formal dining room, each with hardwood floors and a great back garden with deck and level lawns complete the package.

Offered at \$499,000



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Huge Price Reduction! Spectacular panoramic views, exquisite materials, thoughtfully designed & built into a wonderful site in a coveted neighborhood. Dramatic, large open spaces, sophistication & incredible privacy in this 3+ bd/2.5 ba, + au pair. Minutes to Chez Panisse, UCB & Tilden.

Norah Brower 524-9888 x26 \$1,675,000



525 Colusa, Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

This spacious, well-maintained Mediterranean-style home offers 4 bdrms, 2 baths plus full 1 bdrm, 1 bath au-pair on a deep 7500 sq. ft. landscaped lot. Set back from the street behind acacia and oak trees and large boulder, this home offers a bay view while being only minutes from Solano Ave. shops and restaurants. This very desirable Thousand Oaks home is a "must see"!

Joan Brunswick 524-9888 x12 \$925,000



2223 Marin Ave., Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30

New Listing! Watch the sun set on the GGB or have Sunday brunch w/ friends in the huge, serene bkyd. Write a novel in the separate studio or just enjoy hanging out in this gorgeous, well-maintained 3+bd, 1.5 bath Craftsman. In addition, income from the 1-bd, 1-bath non-conforming au pair unit can help w/ the mortgage. Everything you'd wish for all on 1 level & more!

Norah Brower 524-9888 x26 \$765,000



7335 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 5:00

New Listing! Charming split-level 50's home. Gorgeous random plank hwdw floors, double pane windows throughout. Living room w/ fireplace & lots of light, modern kitchen w/ skylight & tiled floor. Garage w/ office. Level, park-like bkyd, vegetable garden. Near shops, restaurants. Easy commute to San Francisco.

Chris Ehlers-Hardie 524-9888 x22 \$499,000



Lots

Southampton Ave. View Lot, Berkeley

Gorgeous, gently down-sloping lot on a street full of expensive homes, in one of Berkeley's most prestigious neighborhoods. Views of the G.G. Bridge and the S.F. Bay, across from John Hinkel Park, & minutes to Solano Ave. shops.

Norah Brower 524-9888 x26 \$435,000



Panoramic Way Lots

Panoramic Way lots. 5 contiguous lots, downslope with view, totaling .31 acres or 13,771 sq. ft.

Joan Brunswick 524-9888 x12

"Don't ever give up your job because you really make a difference in people's lives."
-A. M., Berkeley

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FORECLOSURES
These list foreclosed properties and homes at risk of foreclosure. Purchasers of foreclosed homes often get a 20 percent to 50 percent discount off market-rate. www.bankhomedirect.com offers information on two types of homes: properties subject to a notice of default, or NOD, and those with a notice of trustee sale, or NTS. You can search for these properties by city or ZIP code.

The NOD, the first step in a foreclosure process, is filed when a loan is in default. These properties aren't yet on the auction block. This Web site provides free information on these properties' square footage, number of bedrooms and baths, and an estimated loan balance. If you want to know whether the current owner will sell, you must pay a monthly subscription fee of \$25 for the contact information.

The NTS is filed when borrowers don't pay what they owe within 90 days of the NOD filing. These homes are heading to public auction. The site's free information includes square footage, number of baths and bedrooms, minimum bid amount, and the date of the public sale. For further information on the auction, you must pay the monthly \$25.

Bankhomedirect.com: If the home doesn't sell at the foreclosure auction, the lender gets the home. It's then categorized as "real estate owned" by lender, or REO - the last step of the foreclosure process. Lenders' contact information for these REO homes is available on this free site, which requires users to register.

GOVERNMENT DATA
Government data can help you select a real estate broker. Dre.ca.gov: Real estate experts recommend that consumers log on to the Department of Real Estate Web site to look up the license status and background of any agent, broker or firm before they decide to do business with them.

For example, if a DRE licensee had a criminal conviction that is substantially related to real estate, the Web site would tell you that there has been disciplinary action against the person and if so, will give you a code. To get further details about the disciplinary action, you can call the department and give them the code.

But the system isn't perfect. For example, in a spot check on a salesperson for a Santa Ana real estate company who had two federal convictions, the Web site listed no disciplinary actions.

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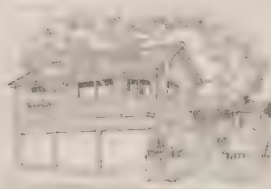
303 COLLEGE AVENUE
BERKELEY, CA 94705
PHONE: 510-849-9990

303 PLEASANT VALLEY
OAKLAND, CA 94611
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ALBANY \$569,000
4/3 - Wonderful tri-level, newer building on Albany Hill, secluded retreat has three decks with gorgeous views of the hills, Richmond through Berkeley. Perfect for the family.
525 Jackson Street # C Open 2-4



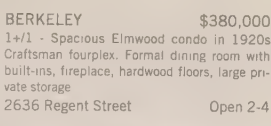
BERKELEY \$519,000
2/1 - Charming sophisticated condo in unique setting. Formal dining room, refinished hardwood floors, freshly painted. 1-car garage with interior access. 1 block north of UC. Special!
1836 Arch Street Open 2-4



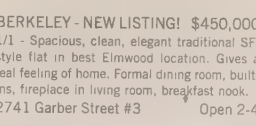
BERKELEY \$789,000
4/3 - Berkeley Hills Traditional with SF & Golden Gate views. Living room with vaulted ceiling, formal dining room. Second level has a large master suite with deck and view.
1111 Grizzly Peak Boulevard Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$579,000
3/1 - High in the hills near Terrace View Park. Lovely green view from picture windows, secluded patio, random-plank hardwood floors, updated kitchen. More at www.bobblumberg.com.
215 Fairlawn Drive Open 2-4



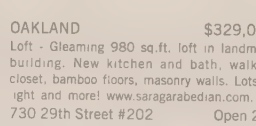
BERKELEY \$380,000
1+1/2 - Spacious Elmwood condo in 1920s Craftsman duplex. Formal dining room with built-ins, fireplace, hardwood floors, large private storage.
2636 Regent Street Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$450,000
1/1 - Spacious, clean, elegant traditional SF-style flat in best Elwood location. Gives a real feeling of home. Formal dining room, built-ins, fireplace in living room, breakfast nook.
2741 Garber Street #3 Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$629,000
2/2 - Beautiful brown shingle, contemporary with au pair unit. Near Claremont Hotel & Rockridge shops. More information at www.izumitada.com.
7717 Claremont Avenue Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$329,000
Loft - Gleaming 980 sq.ft. loft in landmark building. New kitchen and bath, walk-in closet, bamboo floors, masonry walls. Lots of light and more! www.saragarabedian.com.
730 29th Street #202 Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$639,000
2/1 - Spacious Craftsman bungalow in the heart of Rockridge. Freshly landscaped backyard, deck, hardwood floors, built-ins, formal dining room. More at www.eastbayhouse.com.
5307 Boyd Avenue Open 2-4



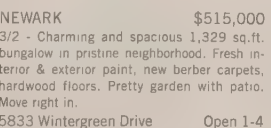
OAKLAND - NEW LISTING! \$349,000
3/1.5 - Bungalow with large partially finished basement for expansion. Fenced-in yard and detached garage. Wall to wall carpeting.
1644 40th Avenue Open 2-4



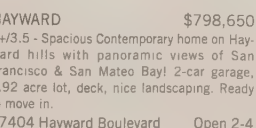
OAKLAND - NEW LISTING! \$389,000
2/1 - Cute, Mediterranean home. New carpet, sparkling hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, updated bath. Convenient to shops, restaurants, freeways and BART.
3306 Deering Street Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW LISTING! \$479,000
2+1 - Adorable vine covered cottage and charming detached home office. Sunny, large garden. Coveted neighborhood minutes to Rockridge, transportation and UC Berkeley!
474 59th Street Open 2-4



NEWARK \$515,000
3/2 - Charming and spacious 1,329 sq.ft. bungalow in pristine neighborhood. Fresh interior & exterior paint, new berber carpets, hardwood floors. Pretty garden with patio. Move right in.
5833 Wintergreen Drive Open 1-4



HAYWARD \$798,650
4+3/5 - Spacious Contemporary home on Hayward hills with panoramic views of San Francisco & San Mateo Bay! 2-car garage, 1.92 acre lot, deck, nice landscaping. Ready to move in.
27404 Hayward Boulevard Open 2-4

[july 25th]

by appointment



ALBANY \$589,000
2/1 - Charming Albany bungalow in move in condition. Very close to Solano Avenue shops, restaurants and transportation. New roof, electrical, sewer line. 2-car garage, hardwood floors ... more!



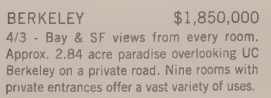
ALBANY \$495,000
4+2.5 - A rare find! Cosmetic fixer with flexible floorplan, perfect for extended family. Rear addition with private entrance & non-conforming 2nd kitchen. Needs TLC. Super location near Solano Avenue shops and Albany schools.



ALBANY \$629,000
3+1/5 - Large tastefully updated home with big landscaped yard on great Albany street. Tall ceilings, sunny and gracious rooms. Full basement bursting with potential. Great neighborhood. Close to everything.



BERKELEY \$549,000
2+1 - Elegant top floor condo with original 1920s architectural details. Quiet & sunny. Updated kitchen and bath. Blocks to UC Berkeley & Chez Panisse. Upper floor bedrooms with Golden Gate views.



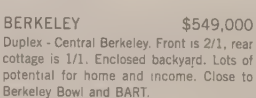
BERKELEY \$1,850,000
4/3 - Bay & SF views from every room. Approx. 2.84 acre paradise overlooking UC Berkeley on a private road. Nine rooms with private entrances offer a vast variety of uses.



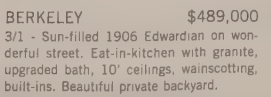
BERKELEY \$669,000
3/2 - Elegant Berkeley hills retreat. Designer home with large flat yard, peek-a-boo view & 2-car garage. Great floorplan. Close to Tilden, UC & bus. More at www.katieandmark.com.



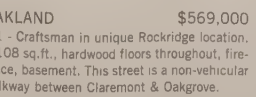
BERKELEY \$699,000
3/2 - Spacious custom built home in a quiet N. Berkeley cul-de-sac near Indian Rock. Peaceful, private rear & front yard, close to everything. More at www.patrickleaper.com.



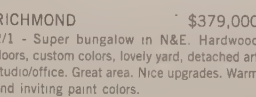
BERKELEY \$549,000
Duplex - Central Berkeley. Front is 2/1, rear cottage is 1/1. Enclosed backyard. Lots of potential for home and income. Close to Berkeley Bowl and BART.



BERKELEY \$489,000
3/1 - Sun-filled 1906 Edwardian on wonderful street. Eat-in-kitchen with granite, upgraded bath, 10' ceilings, wainscoting, built-ins. Beautiful private backyard.



OAKLAND \$569,000
2/1 - Craftsman in unique Rockridge location. 1,108 sq.ft., hardwood floors throughout, fireplace, basement. This street is a non-vehicular walkway between Claremont & Oakgrove.



RICHMOND \$379,000
2/1 - Super bungalow in N.E. Hardwood floors, custom colors, lovely yard, detached art studio/office. Great area. Nice upgrades. Warm and inviting paint colors.



RICHMOND \$428,000
4/2 - Mediterranean legal duplex. Upstairs is 3bd/1ba with hardwood floors, formal dining room, decorative fireplace. Downstairs is 1bedroom/1bath.

Creating a living will

According to a recent survey from the Council on Aging, 74% of people polled believed that creating a living will is very important. In fact, creating a living will tied with building up savings for retirement as the most important factor in preparing for later life. However, only 36% of Americans have a living will, according to a survey from www.FindLaw.com.

Put It in Writing. A living will tells doctors, hospitals and your family your wishes in the event that you become terminally or incurably ill or injured. You can write a living will yourself or with the assistance of a lawyer. Here are a few helpful tips:

Use Resources. Through www.agingwithdignity.org, you can download a document called the Five Wishes Living Will. The Five Wishes Living Will is accepted in 35 out of 50 states. You also can download a free prospective will at www.partnershipforaging.org. The American Association of Retired Persons (www.aarp.org) also offers many resources.

State Laws. Make sure your living will conforms to your state's laws. For example, some states require the will to be signed by two witnesses, be certified by a notary public and contain specific language.

Be Clear. Be consistent and

specific about your wishes. Do you want extraordinary life-saving measures? Do you want to receive pain medication, artificial respiration, heart pumps, dialysis, artificial nutrition and/or hydration? Your living will must address specifics, or it will not be a valuable tool.

Choose an Advocate. Identify in your living will the person you trust to be your advocate, to execute your wishes on your behalf. You may want to choose a second and third person in case your first choice is not available.

Share Your Wishes. Give a copy of your living will to your family, your doctor and your witnesses. Do not leave it in a desk drawer or safe-deposit box. By law, safe-deposit boxes are frozen when you die and require a court order to be opened. Update your living will once a year.

Life Insurance and Estate Planning. Now, also may be the right time to review other documents necessary to protect your family. Do you have adequate disability, long-term care and life insurance? Does someone know where to find your documents, safe-deposit box key, etc.? Do you have a financial plan that includes trust and estate planning?

Seek Help. Creating a living will

is just one part of the estate planning process. A qualified financial advisor can help you and your family create a comprehensive plan and best prepare for the future.

Laura C. Steagall-Cissell is a financial advisor with American Express Financial Advisors in Walnut Creek. She can be reached at 925-476-4726.



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LAND VALUE. 2 bedroom, 1 bath home plus a 2 bedroom, 1 bath rental. Separate lots plus a lot facing Wier Drive. Detached garage & barn. \$850,000. Basore's, 510-748-1166.

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3128 MARINA DRIVE, ALAMEDA. A MUST SEE! 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, single level home located in a great neighborhood in Alameda. East End. Offered at \$595,000. Jose Cerda-Zein 510-748-1197.

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2017 LINCOLN AVE. ANNE VICTORIAN. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, original details, hardwood floors, crown molding, etc. Call Bill Blissett and Gretchen at 510-522-4449.

OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4
4024 AQUA VISTA AVE. PRICE! 1912 CRAFTSMAN home, with original built-in charming cottage for sale. \$397,000. www.hillblissett.com. McDonald, 510-522-4449.

3308 SUTER ST., OAKLAND. LOWER LAUREL AREA. Vaulted ceiling in living room, fireplace, dual paneled windows, hardwood floors. New exterior paint, bolted foundation, etc. A Must See! \$438,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

984 TORRANO AVE. INVESTMENT PROPERTY. UNIT: Well maintained, built in 1964. 1 bedroom and 3-2 bedrooms. 1 bathroom. McDonald, 510-522-4449.

Market Indicator*		CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE				Advertisement Information by INFOTRAK National Data Services
Last wk	This wk	www.mtgeinfo.com/cct				
5.750	5.750	Rates as of 7/20/04				
COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	COMMENTS	
Matrix Investment Corp. 800-366-8916 DOC# 4130418 Fees=\$1831	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 1.880 5.489 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 1.990 5.788 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.625 ... 1.990 5.116 ... 30	1-yr ARM 2.625 ... 0.880 4.804 ... 30	Bad Credit, Brokers, & Commercial Loans Welcome! www.matrixinvestmentcorp.com	
Mortgage Market 800-937-5626 DRE# 00887552 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.875 ... 0.000 5.976 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.125 ... 0.000 6.219 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.528 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250 ... 0.000 3.911 ... 30	Great Purchase, Refinance, Construction Home Equity, 100% LTV Loans Great Service, Over 25 years in Business	
Mortgage World 925-522-0200 DRE# 01360138 Fees=\$1959	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 1.000 5.707 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 1.000 5.841 ... 30	1-yr ARM 3.000 ... 0.000 3.179 ... 30	Commercial APART ... MIXED call ... SBA	Bad Credit BK OK UPTO 107% CASH NOW *30yr fxd jmb/conft/220fca/70%ltv \$500kmax SE HABLA ESPANOL NO COST HOME EQUITY	
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581 Fees=\$2348	30-yr Fixed 5.500 1990 5.786 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 1.990 5.712 ... 30	6 month ARM 3.125 ... 1.990 4.287 ... 30		WO/VI NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point loans are avail! *3yr pp 80%LTV E-mail Steve@northernmutual.com	
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 01124581 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed 5.875 ... 0.000 5.982 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.125 ... 0.000 6.172 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125 ... 0.000 5.168 ... 30	3/1 ARM 4.250 ... 0.000 4.347 ... 30	Se Habla Espanol/No Doc Loans 100% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK	
Preferred Mtge Services 877-562-6619 DRE# 01116503 Fees=\$1965	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.870 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.063 ... 30	MTA Index* 1.250 ... 0.000 3.642 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000 ... 0.000 5.059 ... 30	NO OUT OF POCKET COST LOANS AVALIL. NO INC/NO ASSET VERIF. DIRECT LENDER *POTEN. NEG AM www.PreferredMortgage.com	
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DOC# 4130386 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.805 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 0.000 5.898 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.625 ... 0.000 3.643 ... 30	5/1 ARM 4.500 ... 0.000 3.973 ... 30	www.pmgmortgage.com Purchase specialist-we get loans closed! Great jumbo & interest only programs	
Santelli & Associates 800-516-0656 DRE# 00549593 Fees=\$1745	30-yr Fixed 5.875 ... 0.000 5.969 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.125 ... 0.000 6.166 ... 30	3/1 ARM 4.375 ... 0.000 4.461 ... 30	30-yr ARM* 1.250 ... 0.000 4.072 ... 30	OPEN WEEKENDS / 0 POINTS- 0 COSTS avail INTEREST ONLY/DOWN PMT/full indx.998 APPLY ONLINE AT www.loanpaperwork.com	
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01220326 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.780 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.125 ... 0.000 6.180 ... 45	15-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.480 ... 45	5/1 ARM 4.625 ... 0.000 4.860 ... 45	Good or Bad Credit. Cash in 7 days! No Income Check Loans! 1st or 2nd Mortgage Pur/Ref to 100% saratogabancorp.com.	
Venstar Financial 877-217-1360 DRE# 01400745 Fees=\$1410	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 1.000 5.716 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.040 ... 30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.413 ... 30	Jumbo 1month Libor 2.625 ... 1.000 2.734 ... 30	Ask us about our 0 point, 0 fee programs Will beat any bank's rates 7 days a week 100% equity lines, and commercial loans	
Washington Mutual Bank 925-256-7171 Fees=\$1149	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	3/1 ARM call ...	5/1 ARM call ...	Purchase Specials/5 day close/no points Complimentary pre-approval Available 7 days a week incl evenings	
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DRE# 01351704 Fees=\$1889	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.910 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.099 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.390 ... 30	5/1 ARM 4.750 ... 0.000 4.890 ... 30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK *Apply online! www.superior-mtg.net	
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01096146 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.842 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.040 ... 30	1-yr ARM 3.250 ... 0.000 3.329 ... 30	1-yr ARM Jumbo 3.500 ... 0.000 3.580 ... 30	OPEN WEEKENDS! BAD CREDIT- NO PROBLEM! APPLY OVER THE PHONE- SIMPLE AND EASY! PRE-APPROVED OVER THE PHONE!	
AlmLoan.com 888-411-4246 DRE# 01235124 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.125 5.836 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.375 6.066 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.250 5.288 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875 ... 0.000 4.787 ... 30	Apply and lock online 24/7 Open Sat. from 9am til 2pm Rates and Fees Posted Online Daily	
Amerisave Mortgage Corp. 866-514-7283 DOC# 6038992 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.858 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.025 ... 45	3/1 ARM 3.750 ... 0.000 4.842 ... 45	5/1 ARM 4.750 ... 0.000 4.870 ... 45	*APR includes bank fee, 745 FICO www.amerisave.com. Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300.	
Bank of America Mortgage 925-688-3760 Fees=\$1406	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 1.984 5.896 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 1.791 5.920 ... 30	6 month ARM 3.375 ... 1.176 3.570 ... 30	3/1 ARM 4.125 ... 1.482 4.718 ... 30	*Purchase only Call for refinance rates 925-688-3760 / 877-88-Fixed	
Bay Area Funding 925-930-3100 DRE# 769452 Fees=\$2316	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 1.000 5.837 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 1.000 5.894 ... 30	1st Time Buyer 30 4.375 ... 1.000 4.571 ... 30	1st Time Buyer 5/1 3.500 ... 1.000 3.887 ... 30	\$100 1st. TIME BUYER LOWEST PMT. GUARAN *1st TIME BUYER 30 YR. FIX. AFTER FED SUBSIDY. Income & price limits. 100%OK	
BayCal Financial Corp. 408-719-6800 DRE# 0116996 Fees=\$1704	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 1.000 5.704 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 1.000 6.017 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000 ... 0.000 5.048 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 ... 0.000 4.548 ... 30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 MIL Interest Only to 2 MIL, 6 MOS, 3/1, 5/1 180 Days Lock, NEW Construction Home PUR	
Buckingham Mtge. Corp. 866-721-4500 DOC# 603-8905 Fees=\$2135	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.825 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 0.000 5.985 ... 30	3/1 ARM 4.000 ... 0.250 3.986 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875 ... 0.000 4.210 ... 30	7/1 5.5% 5.13 APR; 10/1 5.88% 5.34 APR No Income. No Doc. Int. Only. ZERO POINTS California Jumbo Wholesalers.	
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01370755 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 1.125 5.781 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 1.250 6.019 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250 ... 1.250 4.381 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 ... 1.250 4.885 ... 30	Open Sat & Sun. Quik Qualifier & stated or no income option available Credit Problems O.K.	
Countrywide Home Loans 888-484-7776 Fees=\$1215	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	10/1 ARM Jumbo call ...	12 Mo Fxd Pay I/O call ...	10 GUARANTEE CLOSING ON PURCHASES 100% FINANCING. LESS PAPERWORK FREE PRE-APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES	
Custom Mtge Solutions 800-259-9510 DOC# 6038694 Fees=\$1170	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 1.625 5.480 ... 35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 1.000 5.850 ... 35	15-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 1.750 4.980 ... 35	CODI 30 yr ARM** 1.500 ... 0.000 4.740 ... 60	90% LTV in Bankruptcy *No DOC to \$1M *Loans for A-B-C-D Credit. 100% Purchase *Loans to \$4 Mil. **Pot. neg. amort.	
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Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DOC# 6037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 1.750 5.814 ... 60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 1.500 6.158 ... 60	1-mo COFI ARM* 1.250 ... 1.000 4.490 ... 45		Direct lender. 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mtgs. *Pot. neg. amort. Apply online at www.downeysavings.com	
First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-MARY DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$1086	30-yr Fixed 5.875 ... 0.000 5.987 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.040 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875 ... 0.000 4.912 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 ... 0.000 4.537 ... 30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST more rates at maylightell.com Call 7days wk milghtell@1stblackhawk.com	
Golden Gate Home Loans 877-246-5899 DOC# 6052720 Fees=\$1946	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.842 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.990 ... 0.000 6.083 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.213 ... 30	5-yr int only* 1.950 ... 0.000 4.190 ... 30	100%FINANCE. NO INCOME VERIFICATION!!!! *min pay of pay-off ARM, construction open 8:00A.M.-8:00P.M. 7-days a week!!!!	
Hamilton National Mtgs 800-220-7334 DOC# 0130379 \$1165	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 0.250 5.739 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.099 ... 30	10-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 0.000 5.054 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 5.125 0000 5.214 ... 30	CONSISTENTLY THE LOWEST RATES SINCE 1996 COMPETITIVE NO COST LOANS WWW.HAMILTONNATIONAL.COM	
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 01033932 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 1.000 5.820 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 1.000 6.070 ... 30	5/1 interest only 4.750 ... 1.000 4.940 ... 30	No 5 Dwn 30 yr Fxd 4.990 ... 1.000 5.180 ... 30	DONT BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR A HONEST, LOCKABLE RATE! FIND OUT WHY I GET TONS REFERRALS! BAD CREDIT OK	
Lamorinda Funding Group 800-881-3516 DRE# 01183856 Fees=\$2074	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	1 Month ARM** call ...	30 Year Fixed* call ...	*to 400K, LTV=65%. 660 FICO. prepay pen	

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Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$333,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Lock-rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Average 30 yr. fixed conforming with all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on \$150,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website & contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

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These 'heavenly' bamboo plants aren't so heavenly

I have several questions about heavenly bamboo plants. They are quite tall, standing about six feet tall, and they are quite top heavy causing the stalks to sag away from the trunk at extreme angles. Is there a way to bind up the stalks or some other pruning technique to control the broadness of the plant? Is there a problem with seeping them back to a much smaller size? In my neighborhood, several plantings that are quite

The Sunset Western Garden describes heavenly bamboo, a domestic, as a slow-to-mature growing shrub to six to eight feet tall, spreading three to four feet. It has a clumping habit and grows by shoots or runners. It doesn't have fronds but fine, lacy leaves and the old stems can become a problem.

The term fronds are reserved only to ferns or those plants that have spores. There are several ways you can use to control the bamboo and the spread. First, you could put a stake(s) in the ground and support the sagging stalks with green plastic tape by tying to the stake. You could cut off top-heavy canes at ground level in the spring of the year, as new growth will appear from the base. It also depends on how thick the stalks are.

You can reduce the width by removing a section of the clump with a shovel. The last option is to replace them with other growing varieties. Nandina, Jessica firepower, harbor dwarf, the newest cultivar, sienna sun, are three varieties that do not grow over four feet. heavenly bamboos don't produce lateral shoots and the height will produce a very compact plant.

I have a Van cherry tree that is loaded with black aphids. I'm not sure if it's the thing down because it gets worse each year. What can I do to get rid of these things? Like death and taxes, aphids on plants in the spring of the year are a sure thing. The only true way to rid your plants of aphids is not to have any of them growing in your yard. This is not very practical. But you can try to control with a little insecticide.

It's too late to do much this year. March as the new leaves emerge, is the time to be on the lookout for aphids. Every five to seven days you need to check your leaves. Once you see the aphids, you spray the tree with insecticidal soap, pick off the leaves and make a follow up application two weeks later. This will prevent the tree from looking as bad as it does now. It's a simple solution to the problem.

I have English Ivy ground cover planted in front of my house. I've tried weeding it two to three times a year. Is there something I can spray on the weeds without spraying the ivy? There is a solution but it depends on the type of weeds you have. Monterey Grass Getter will kill the annual and perennial weeds including Bermuda grass. Broadleaf ground covers, conifers, like ivy, strawberry, junipers and others. It will control morning glory, this and others etc. It may not kill it

out completely but certainly keeps the growth below the ivy leaves and eliminates the hand pulling.

Q. I hope you can help with a weed that suddenly becomes a tree in less than two years. They sprout initially as long, skinny, single stalks with leaves that resemble camellia leaves. If I pull them up quickly, they are easily uprooted, but a few that were about four-foot high were just too hard to pull and one is now over twenty feet high. I probably pull four sprouts a week from other places in my yard.

A. I'm concerned now that these things are going to get so tall they will just blow over and die one day. Any idea what they are? Is it possible to prune them into submission so they stay where they are right now?

A. The mystery weed/tree is probably Ligustrum lucidum or japonica. They are related to a shrub called Texas or Wax Leaf Privet. Ligustrum lucidum or japonica is planted as a small growing, evergreen, and landscape tree in the Bay Area. They have clusters of white flowers that turn into a bluish/black berry. The berries are the source of the problem as they produce the new seedlings or

sprouts you are referring to. They get transported by birds and squirrels from yard to yard and are a nuisance in countless number of yards in the Bay Area including mine. The good news is that they can be kept trim, sheared or pruned at heights ranging from ten to twenty feet. Also, given the right conditions, they could fall over but it's not a common occurrence. You do need to be diligent pulling up the seedlings while they are small; otherwise, you'll have to prune them off periodically at the ground level, as they will resprout.

Q. One of the branches of our apricot tree broke off, because of the weight of the fruit. Will that hurt the tree?

A. I'm not sure what you mean by "hurting the tree." If you're wondering if the tree will die, the answer is no. You may have a space or hole in the canopy depending on the diameter of the limb that broke. A broken branch is an individual occurrence. It will not enhance or affect any other issue(s) that may be affecting this tree. A healthy tree will continue to thrive while one that is declining continues to go down hill. You should remove the broken limb. I'd use a pruning saw to make a

clean cut as a clean cut heals faster than a jagged one. Next, seal the wound with one of the tree sealing compounds.

They are available at your favorite garden center. I would also prop up any other limbs that are in danger of breaking with 2 x 4's. To avoid this problem next year thin the fruit after it sets in the spring.

Q. I have a grafted peach tree with suckers coming out all around the trunk. The problem really is that it's in my lawn. How can I get rid of all these suckers?

A. There are no permanent controls for plant suckers. This is a natural process. Manually cutting off the suckers as they appear is your

only option. You should be on clipper patrol, cutting the suckers away whenever they appear. However, you have a bigger problem. Peach trees make a very poor lawn tree. They don't like the wet feet from all the summer watering. There is a very slim chance that it will be a long-lived tree in this location.



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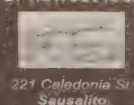
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Sitting on a financial fence

Q. Previous owners of our home had a private chain-link fence installed on our property. They installed that fence next to a wooden fence that had previously been installed along the property line. The issue is that the wooden fence is in ill repair. If our neighbors choose to repair the wooden fence, do we share financial responsibility?

A. By "financial responsibility," I assume you mean that if your neighbors repair the fence they will ask you to help pay for that expense.

Let's assume that there are no homeowner association rules that apply and that there is no private, written agreement between your property (or you) and your neighbor's property (or your neighbor).

If that's the case then it would appear that whatever actions your neighbors undertake on their own to repair the fence are probably their own financial responsibility.

If you have a good relationship with your neighbors, it might be a good idea to work with them to gain a reasonable solution to fixing the fence. Since your fence is chain-link, it most likely allows you to see through it to the wooden fence. By working with your neighbors to repair the wooden fence, you might just benefit a great deal (aesthetically) by pitching in to get something you like - otherwise, you might end up getting a worse situation!

See HAMILTON, Page B22



TOM HAMILTON
Real Estate Q&A

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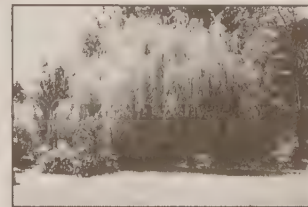
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Pinole			
\$579,000	707 Antonia Ct	4BD/2BA	
Open Sun 1-4		707-297-0550	Broker
Pleasant Hill			
\$649,000	1995 Morello Ave	4BD/2BA	
Open Sun 1-4		510-339-9290	Herb Manor
Prudential Ca Realty			
Point Richmond			
\$449,000	218 Water St	1BD/1.5BA	
Open Sun 2-4		510-231-1640	
Marvin Gardens		Jeri Janes	
Richmond			
\$329,000	1513 San Joaquin	2BD/1BA	
Open Sun 2-4	Richmond Annex	510-868-1465	
Prudential Ca Realty		Amy & Rod Davis	
\$415,000	1808 Mendocino St	2BD/2BA	
Open Sun 2-4		510-559-2919	
Marvin Gardens		Joan Underwood	
\$465,000	4519 Santa Rita Rd	3BD/2BA	
Open Sun	May Valley	510-845-0211	
Prudential Ca Realty		Fatima Ali	
\$499,000	5215 Silva Ave	2+BD/2BA	
Open Sun 2-4:30	Richmond View	510-869-4788	
Better Homes Realty		Marius Duvalle	
\$558,988	762 Rock Rose Way	4BD/2.5BA	
Open Sun 1-4	Country Club Vista	800-647-3582	
Security Pacific		Cynthia Burke	
San Leandro			
\$417,000	333 Bowling Green	2BD/1BA	
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-220-6407	
Better Homes Realty		Earle Shenk	
\$459,900	800 Begier Ave	2BD/1BA	
Open Sun 2-5	Estudillo Estates	510-845-0211	
Prudential Ca Realty		Allyk Vasdekis	
\$465,000	14009 Seagate	3BD/2.5BA	
Sat Sun 2-4		510-814-4893/814-4840	
Harbor Bay Realty		Kathy Bell-Mathy/Tere Lee	
\$498,000	14873 Lark St	3BD/2BA	
Open Sun 2-4		510-845-0211	
Prudential Ca Realty		Camille Rogers	
\$595,000	900 Lee Ave	2+BD/1BA	
Sun 2-4	San Leandro	510-338-1305	
Pacific Union GMAC RE		Teri Carlisle	
San Pablo			
\$393,000	1720 Hillcrest Rd	2+BD 1+BA	
Open Sun 2-4	Richmond View	510-848-1950 X242	
Thornwall Properties, Inc		Kathryn Hill	
Alameda County			
\$499,000	3025 Linda Vista	3BD/2.5BA	
OPEN Sat/Sun 1-4		415-601-8898	
Creative Investments		Raymond Szeto, Agt.	
\$549,000	1112 High Street	2+BD/1BA	
Sun 2-4		510-523-0746	
Kane & Associates		Mindy Hart	
\$905,000	1428 9th st.	4Plex	
Opem Sun 2-4		Agent Tammy Nguyen	

[illegible]

Hamilton

FROM PAGE B20

Q. I have been trying to have my mortgage company waive the PMI payment for several years. They wrote me in October 2003 that I "had an acceptable payment history" and "we have approved your request contingent upon a certification that there is no decline in value of the property from the origination of your loan by conducting an appraisal."

I submitted an appraisal in January that indicated the property was worth \$390,000 (my loan balance is \$153,610). Unfortunately, I forgot to make my February payment. I mailed it on Feb. 25 and it was posted the 30th day (March 1). This is the only time in nine years this has happened.

On March 8 they replied, stating I did not qualify for the waiver since "one of the required guidelines is to maintain a good payment record, with no payments received 30 days or more late within the past 12 month period." I would have to wait another year before reapplying. Never had I been informed of this requirement.

I was told this is a Fannie Mae loan and that agency sets the guidelines and makes this requirement. I have requested a copy of Fannie Mae's regulation but have not received it. I was under the impression also that once I had paid 20 percent of

the original loan amount, the PMI would be automatically waived. I had paid 20 percent as of last October but was told the law requiring this was passed after my loan was made in March 1995 and was not a part of my contract.

I have an excellent credit rating and, since I have made every payment and am not in arrears, I feel I have been unjustly treated. The payment was posted on the 30th day and the property is worth more than double the amount of the mortgage.

A. It sounds as though you are not very happy with this lender. Lenders are just businesses that provide a good or service, much like a restaurant. If you are not happy with your service or food at a restaurant and they "blame you" for your displeasure, would you go back to that restaurant? Of course you would not go back.

Given the situation you state in your letter, I would go to another lender to see what rate you can get on a new, replacement loan. It ap-

pears that your loan is a few years old and interest rates are much lower now than what they were then. Also, if you refinance just your balance, you will NOT have to pay mortgage insurance. You will prob-

ably get a better rate, a lower payment, and get rid of the lender who just served you burned coffee and told you to be happy.

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is associ-

ate professor at the Shaker for Real Estate Education, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis. E-mail: thamilton@stthomas.edu. Please include name, city and

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As-Is" trust sale. Great floorplan, great Elmwood location. Four + bedrooms and two baths. Remodel this home from top to bottom and it will be well worth the effort.
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Berkeley
\$820,000

The approach to the front door of this lovely 4 bedroom / 2 bath Mediterranean-style home is along a dramatic tiled, arched walkway.

Located in a quiet neighborhood, the home also features gorgeous sweeping bay views, a deep yard, refinished hardwood floors throughout, deck, attached garage, and a lower level ideal for an au pair or in-law.

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3 bedroom, 1 bathroom Cottage with hardwood floors, great detailing, and old world charm. Spacious living and dining areas with lots of windows for plenty of natural light. Landscaped yard with plus space for workshop or artists studio!

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SAN FRANCISCO \$1,195,000

3040 24th Avenue

4 bedroom, 3 bath with grand reception rooms, large family room, gorgeous hardwood floors though out.

www.carolineandmichelle.com

Caroline Peters 510-339-4554



MONTCLAIR \$1,195,000

6193 Ruthland Road

Whimsical Mediterranean Villa. Cherry HW flrs. 3 master suites w/balconies, 3.5 BA, gourmet kitchen, formal dining rm, living rm, family rm, great for entertaining. Easy SF commute, desirable Montclair setting.

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550



MONTCLAIR \$979,000
1334 Mountain Blvd.

3 BD, 3.5 BA completely remodeled Montclair Trad. w/ HWF, great details & upgrades. LR, FDR, gorgeous cooks kitchen/family room. Landscaped & private yards!

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550



PIEDMONT \$899,000

1682 Lower Grand

Gracious English Traditional. Elegant living & dining rooms, redone kitchen and bath. 2+ bedrooms, easy access to schools and parks.

Jennie Lippincott 510-384-3557



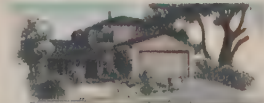
MONTCLAIR \$849,000

1758 Indian Way

Montclair Treasure! Beautiful 1926 traditional rich w/ architectural details. Birds, deer, fruit trees. Large park-like setting, gourmet kitchen, family room. Beautifully remodelled, lovingly maintained, near Montclair Village.

www.1758IndianWay.com

Mary Jane McConville 510-339-4280

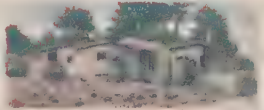


OAKLAND \$779,000

3915 Oakmore Road

Spacious home with cathedral beamed ceiling, walls of glass and lovely hardwood floors. Level in entry with first floor bed & bath PLUS two-story traditional floorplan. Quiet cul-de-sac location-tree-studded setting.

See the virtual tour at: PatriciaBennett.com 510-482-9000



MONTCLAIR \$749,000

5912 Chelton Drive

What a rare find in the hills! This one-level 3 BD/2 BA home is situated on a large nearly level professionally landscaped sunny lot with Bay view.

Michael Thompson 510-339-5775



MONTCLAIR \$715,000

6924 Ridgewood Drive

Immaculate 3 BD/2.5 BA custom-built contemporary w/ landscaped gardens in a picturesque wooded setting. Modernly elegant with HW floors, spacious living room, formal dining room, and cooks kitchen!

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$699,000

5637 Masonic Avenue

Mid-century 3 BR/2 BA has been lovingly updated but still retains the character of the original design. Freshly painted & carpeted with newer 1 BR/1 BA downstairs, this home is ready for the next buyer to move right in.

Michael Thompson 510-339-5775



SEQUOYAH HILLS \$629,000

8000 Hansom Drive

Comfort, space & style. Ranch home near Skyline, offers best indoor/outdoor living. Near country club, Chabot Park. Hiking, biking, equestrian center, easy access commute.

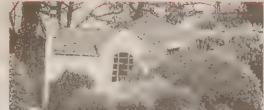
Rosemary Greene 510-899-6305

MONTCLAIR \$595,000

13051 Broadway Terrace

3 BR, 2 BA Montclair Traditional in secluded wooded setting. Living room has hardwood floors, fireplace, and upper deck access for indoor/outdoor entertaining. Family/plus room for movie nights or home office.

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550



RICHMOND \$499,000

5215 Silva Avenue

This 2+2 charming Mediterranean was built in 1944 w/arches & details, located in the Mira Vista neighborhood literally in a park like setting. HWF, FRP, FDR, decks w/spa, den/office/extra BR, 2 car garage. Open 1-4:30

Marius Duvalle 510-869-4788

EL CERRITO \$469,000

748 Pomona Avenue

3 BD, 1 BA spacious cottage in beautiful country setting. Hardwood floors throughout with great original detailing. Living room with fireplace, formal dining room and eat in kitchen. Large patio for entertaining.

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550



NORTH OAKLAND \$449,000

930 43rd Street

New Listing! Gleaming oak hardwoods, granite and tile kitchen. Stunning blend of traditional and ultra modern remodeling in this 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in the exciting Emeryville Corridor.

Rosemary Greene 510-899-6305

SAN LEANDRO \$417,000

333 Bowling Green

1st open-Adorable and spotless 2/1 in San Leandro North area. Dual pane windows, gleaming hardwood floors, remodelled bath, gardener's delight, plenty of sunshine and much more!

Earle Shenk 510-220-6407

NORTH OAKLAND \$399,000

1042 Arlington Avenue

Beautiful craftsman at Emeryville border. HWF throughout w/ updated kitchen & bath, wood burning fireplace. Perfect starter home in a great location. Two bedroom, 1 bath.

Maria Sinclair 510-339-4566

OAKLAND \$349,000

567 Oakland Avenue #201

2 2BD, 2BA sophisticated condo with beautiful Shoji screens, dual-paneled windows and upgrades throughout. Centrally located next to Piedmont Ave. shops, restaurants and commute.

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550

By Appointment

MONTCLAIR \$1,190,000

Spacious, bright & charming 4-BD+BA home. Completely renovated in 2003 with attention to detail! Gourmet kitchen master retreat with huge walk-in closet, fabulous Bay view.

Martha Shin 510-339-4550

MONTCLAIR \$799,000

Spacious 3 BD, 2 BA Montclair home in secluded wooded setting. Upgrades throughout, hardwood floors, landscaped yard with hill views. 2 BD oversized in-law with separate entrance.

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550

MONTCLAIR \$795,000

Incredible 4 BD, 3 BA Gingerbread in Montclair hills w/spacious back yards, bay views & huge plus room! Gorgeous art deco Hardwood Floors & skylights!

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550

MONTCLAIR \$789,000

4 BD, 2.5 BA Piedmont Pines contemporary traditional flavor. HW floors, vaulted ceilings, MBR with tub. Library with secret passage room make this home delightful!

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$589,000

Sweet English style with sparkling kitchen and bath! Private yard, cozy family room. See virtual tour at PatriciaBennett.com

PatriciaBennett.com 510-482-9000

MAXWELL PARK \$489,000

What a charmer! Stunning open family home perched on hill. Wonderful property is perfect for growing family w/3+ BD, spacious din. room. Built in cabinetry in room. Great views from upstairs. Detached garage in back of unit.

Maria Sinclair 510-339-4566

UPPER GLENVIEW \$499,000

2 BD upper Glenview Craftsman original details & HW flrs. LR w/ create a great room space. FDR w/ access landscaped backyard w/ tub and gazebo; perfect for entertaining!

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550

Coming Soon

GLENVIEW \$589,000

Charming home with deep yard, light, formal dining. Quiet unobstructed street. Three bedrooms, 2 baths family room.

PatriciaBennett.com 510-482-9000

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!

Section C

WY/BERKELEY STING third baseman Katie Tick waits for the ball as Concord Glory's Ashley Waite slides safely into the base during a tournament in Pleasant Hill.

NY/BERKELEY STING pitcher Sadie Oliver-Grey delivers a pitch against the Concord Glory.

STAFF WRITER

"The season has gone OK."

The team had tryouts before the season started and 12 girls were picked for the Sting Blue; 12 more were selected for the Sting Gold, the other under-10 team.

And maybe they'll remember
that most beginnings are usually
humble.

STAFF REPORT

hard throwing Bryce Chu
ground, SOLL allowed two
and two errors in the bot-
tom of the first inning, which led
to a early 2-0 lead for Albany.
SOLL had not allowed more
than one run in any game so far,
but he seemed a serious threat to its
streak. But SOLL re-
sisted when Bryce Hufford sin-
gled and Spencer Wood doubled

Albany, though, was not done. It responded in the fourth inning with a minor uprising, as Chu struggled with the strike zone and walked two batters with one out. A well-struck ball to left brought in one run, but alert outfield play by Bonacum nailed the runner trying to stretch it to a

SOLL had an off day Thursday, awaiting the outcome of that evening's NOLL-Albany losers' bracket final. The winner of that game was to have faced SOLL on Friday for the championship.

BRIEFS

Drew Gooden
basketball camp

Drew Gooden, Orlando Magic player and former El Cerrito High School All-American, will be holding a camp for boys and girls ages 7-14 Aug. 9-13 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Albany High School. Campers will receive T-shirt, customized ball and picture with Gooden. Proceeds benefit Scholar Athletes, Inc. 510-223-5518, drew-gooden.camp@yahoo.com or www.drewgooden.net

Sting Blue 7, Pleasant Hill Panthers 7: Game three started with the Sting scoring two runs. Tokunaga's double and singles by Di Costanzo and Imana Samuels helped the rally along. Oliver-Grey's hit scored Tokunaga. Sting pitcher Tokunaga dominated the first-inning defense by striking out one batter, catching a pop-up, and throwing to catcher Ellie Arkin for the out at home. With Presher, Tokunaga and Di Costanzo combining for

San Ramon Stompers 5, Sting Blue 4: The elimination-round game was a nail-biter. With Oliver-Grey pitching for the Sting, the score was tied at the end of the first inning. Ridley singled in the second and scored on Arkin's RBI hit. At that point the Sting was down by only one run. By the bottom of the third the score was tied again after Tokunaga's RBI double. The Sting was again down by one run in the bottom of the fifth. With two runners on second and third, a line drive by Presher was caught by the Stompers second baseman to end the game. The Sting was eliminated.

Drew Gooden, Orlando Magic player and former El Cerrito High School All-American, will be holding a camp for boys and girls ages 7-14 Aug. 9-13 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Albany High School. Campers will receive T-shirt, customized ball and picture with Gooden. Proceeds benefit Scholar Athletes, Inc. 510-223-5518, drew-goodencamp@yahoo.com or www.drewgooden.net

Mid-County Officials Network is looking for junior high and high school volleyball officials, and youth and small enrollment high school soccer officials. 510-301-2928.

El Cerrito Recreation Dept. will be offering adult mini-league softball for all skill levels July 26-Aug. 23. Games to be held Monday evenings 510-559-7005 or

cjones@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Berkeley Youth Alternatives Blue & Gold Invitational basketball tournaments will be held at Emery High School in Emeryville as follows: Mid Tourney, July 28 and July 30-Aug. 1; Late Tourney, Aug. 4 and Aug. 6-8. Divisions are 12-under, 13-under, 15-under and 17-under. \$200 per team with three game guarantee. 510-845-9066 or sports@byaonline.org.

See BRIEFS, Page 2

FISHING REPORT

PACIFIC OCEAN

Diana Nunez of berkeleymarinas-portfishing.com reported that due to the volume of vessel traffic over the weekend, the salmon moved into the deeper water outside of Muir Beach in 90 feet of water. On Monday and Tuesday, the salmon moved back into the bait fish schooled in 40-60 feet of water. Additional reports from the channel buoys and Drake's Bay indicated more salmon moving into the area. All of the boats that fished those areas also reported fast limits of salmon. The forecast this weekend calls for calm seas and sunshine.

James Smith of the California Dawn said the salmon fishing has remained strong this week. On Wednesday they had a salmon per rod and one striper for 19 anglers by noon fishing near Muir Beach. On Tuesday they split their time between San Francisco Bay and the ocean, catching 19 bass inside the Golden Gate and 11 salmon and six leopard sharks outside. On Monday they caught 37 salmon fishing up the Marin coast.

Craig Stone of Emeryville Sportfishing said the Bay Area salmon fleet continues on with red hot salmon action fishing off the Marin County coastline. With the exception of a couple of days, limits and near limits of salmon have been the rule for weeks as boats are both trolling and mooching and getting consistent action. On Tuesday out of Emeryville, the Dandy, New Seeker, Superfish, Rapid Transit and New Salmon Queen reported in with a collective 131 salmon to 35 pounds for 71 anglers. Three boats were trolling and two were mooching.

THE BAYS

SAN FRANCISCO: Jim Smith had the Happy Hooker at both Alcatraz and San Pablo Bay on Tuesday and caught 25 limits of bass up to 18 pounds and six halibut. He was over a fish per rod for bass by early Wednesday afternoon and caught another six halibut. James Smith said the tides look promising for halibut fishing this weekend. Some places to try include Alcatraz, the Seal Rocks area and the deeper waters around Angel Island.

Stone also said the pollock trips have been yielding good numbers of striped bass with a scattering of halibut mixed in. On Tuesday out of Emeryville, the Captain Hook and New Huck Finn reported in with a col-

lective 61 striped bass to 15 pounds, nine halibut to 28 pounds and four leopard sharks to 25 pounds for a combined 47 anglers. Best action on the striped bass is on the reefs in the main bay, and halibut at Seal Rocks.

SUISUN: Jordana Santiago of Martinez Bait and Tackle reported fair fishing for this week. A bunch of shaker sturgeon were caught at Buoy 4 and schoolie striper were reported, but only one of each came to the scale. Kathleen and Rick White of Concord caught a 49-inch, 25.3-pound sturgeon on grass shrimp and a 19-inch, 3-pound striper on the same bait. Both were caught at Buoy 4. There were a fair amount of anglers out last weekend but the wind forced an early retreat for most of them.

Tony Lopez of McAvoy's Bait in Pittsburg said fishing remains slow with few anglers willing to brave the wind. Places to try if conditions are calm include Middle Ground, Yellow Can, Montezuma Slough and the Mottball Fleet. David Lancaster caught two sturgeon, an 86-pound, 70-inch and a 96-pounder.

THE RIVERS

SACRAMENTO RIVER, REDDING TO ANDERSON: Kirk Portocarrero of Outdoor Adventures Sport Fishing said fishing for rainbow trout is still great with guided groups getting 15-30 fish per day. The best time to fish is in the late afternoon until sunset. Anglers are catching and releasing rainbows up to six pounds. Working well are pheasant tail No. 16, micro mayfly No. 16 and Fox's Pupae.

FEATHER RIVER, OROVILLE: Portocarrero said fishing for king salmon has slowed down. Those being caught are bright fish, 12-25 pounds with the occasional 30-pounder. Anglers are back-trolling green and gold flatfish lures, T-50s and are starting to catch a few on roe.

SACRAMENTO RIVER, RED BLUFF: Portocarrero said opening day was very slow as only a couple of fish were caught from about 200 boats. The fish are shooting up river and not sticking around to be caught. The daily counts also are low right now. It should all pick up as more salmon are on their way.

THE DELTA

The fishing remains spotty for the most part with only schoolie-size stripers and some catfish being

caught. Phillip Dutra at Gotchal Bait and Tackle in Antioch said Sherman Island is a decent place for stripers, but they're still on the small side. Jessica Gerarao caught a 2.75-pound striper on sardines at the Antioch Pier, Ismael Reyes and a friend caught four stripers totaling 13 pounds on anchovies at Rio Vista and Kenard Carleo caught a 7-pound catfish on waxworms on the Old Sacramento River.

Audie Urbano of Hap's Bait and Tackle said fishing remains slow in the Rio Vista Area. Catfish are being caught in the back sloughs and some 7-10 pound stripers are being had in the Sacramento River down to Decker Island. Urbano said he doesn't expect things to pick up until the salmon run arrives in about two weeks. The stripers typically swim upstream with them.

THE LAKES

SAN PABLO RESERVOIR, EL SOBRANTE: Bait fishing for trout is a challenge right now and anglers should try the deeper holes. Trolling for trout also is fair, with patience being a must. Catfish action is good with scattered hot spots. Bass and crappie fishing are both fair. Tyler Scott of Soquel caught a 5-pound trout at the dam using needlefish. Na Saechao of Richmond caught a 7-pound, 9.6-ounce bass at the launch using cornmeal and Gordon Yang or Rodeo caught a 22-pound, 8.4-ounce catfish at Pinto Point using an anchovy.

LAKE CHABOT, CASTRO VALLEY: The trout action remains slow, but those still seeking them can fish on the bottom in Half Moon Bay or deep by the dam with nightcrawlers. For bass, throw out spinnerbaits and plastics at Alder Point or Bass Cove. Catfish action is hot in Half Moon Bay for boaters soaking nightcrawlers on the bottom. Shore anglers can walk to Honker Bay and throw out mackerel for best action.

LOS VAQUEROS, BRENTWOOD: Shoreline fishing for trout has been excellent as anglers can limit out within a couple of hours. Most anglers like to fish the South Cove in the morning and then go toward the Oak Point area or near the docks as the day goes on. Anglers are using a variety of PowerBait (rainbow, chartreuse, orange) and others are using a nightcrawler/marshmallow combo, or PowerBait with a nightcrawler. Trollers have been limiting out using broken

back lures, Cripp lures, Wedding Rings and Rapalas, trolling no deeper than 25 feet. Anglers with boats have been having good luck bait fishing in Peninsula Cove, and near the Dam using a variety of baits for trout.

Bass can be had mainly down by the Rock Wall, the docks and Oak Point. Some bass have been pulled out right behind the marina on the south side using nightcrawlers. Bass anglers are using rubber worms, Rat-L-Traps and poppers. Anglers in boats have had some luck in the Rock Wall vicinity near the submerged trees, back in Peninsula Cove and near the dam. Catfish always pick up with the warmer weather and can generally be pulled out anywhere along the shore line. Catfish have been pulled out on worms close to Oak Point and South Cove. Some anglers with boats have caught cats in Peninsula Cove and near the dam. Try chicken livers or Crave's Catfish Gravy.

LAKE DEL VALLE, LIVERMORE: Trout fishing remains slow with just a few reports of fish coming from the dam. Rainbow PowerBait is popular. Bass have moved out and are on deep (20-30 feet) drop-offs and structures. Try drop-shotting or use finesse baits in these locations. Catfish action has been good lately with most of the fish coming from the south end of the lake. Nightcrawlers and chicken livers have been the best baits.

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, LAFAYETTE: Fishing at Lafayette Reservoir continues to be fairly good as trout are primarily being caught at a shallow depth with PowerBait or lures in the south end. The east cove is currently the hot spot for bass and catfish. To date, 3,800 pounds of catfish have been planted this summer and more plants are scheduled. Anglers should anticipate excellent bass fishing due to upcoming bass plants.

Anthony Tafuya caught a 3.4-pound trout in the south end with a lure, Danville's Nick Volpe, Adam Brescia and Ben Magee caught nine trout and an 11.8-pound catfish and Phillip Stuart of Richmond caught an 8.5-pound bass with a worm in the east cove. Chris Conrad of Lafayette caught a 9.5-pound catfish in the east cove using a chicken liver.

— Curtis Pashelka

DISTRICT 4 INTERNATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

Schedule for California District Four Little League International Tournament. Games played on home field of designated host. This is a double-elimination tournament.

9-10-YEAR-OLD DIVISION

Winners' bracket

First round

Thursday, July 8

Albany (1) 15, Pittsburg National 10

Albany (2) 18, Pinole-Hercules 0

Second round

Tuesday, July 13

Martinez 10, Albany (1) 0; Albany (1) eliminated

Albany (2) 9, Clayton Valley (1) 7

Wednesday, July 14

Albany (2) 11, Clayton Valley (2) 2

Antioch West

Thursday, July 15

Alameda (1) 6, Albany (2) 2; Alameda (1) wins championship

Losers' bracket

All losers' bracket games were canceled

11-YEAR-OLD DIVISION

Winners' bracket

First round

Thursday, July 1

Albany 10, East County 0

Second round

Wednesday, July 7

Lafayette 3, Albany 2

Losers' bracket

Thursday, July 8

Albany 1, North Oakland 0

Friday, July 9

Clayton Valley 4, Albany 2; Albany eliminated

MAJOR DIVISION

Winners' bracket

First round

Thursday, July 1

Albany 20, Continental 9

Clayton Valley at Albany forfeit to Clayton Valley

Briefs

FROM PAGE 1

Free football camp

Coaches Against Gun Violence will be sponsoring a free football camp with Oakland Raider Tyrone Wheatley for high school students ages 14-18 July 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Castlemont High School at 8601 MacArthur Blvd. in Oakland. Registration and permission forms required. Pre-registration encouraged. Free lunch provided. 866-347-7866 or coaches@atj.org.

Albany Bobcats football registration

Albany Bobcats youth football program will be holding final registration for ages 6-14 July 24 at 10 a.m. at Cougar Field located behind Albany Middle School at 1259 Brighton Ave. Cheerleading groups also forming. 510-528-7055 or www.albanyfootball.com.

Jim Hadnot Foundation basketball clinic

Jim Hadnot Foundation will be

holding a youth basketball clinic for ages 7-11 Aug. 15, Aug. 22 and Aug. 29 in Oakland. \$125. 510-393-2931.

Summer All-Corner Track Meet

Chabot College in Hayward will be holding its Summer All-Corner Track Meet for high school athletes and older at 6 p.m. July 27. Events to include 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500, 700H, 3200, long jump, shot put and discus. No pole vault or high jump. 510-723-6662 or KGrace@ChabotCollege.edu.

Kids All-Corner Track Meet

Chabot College in Hayward will be holding its Kids All-Corner Track Meet for ages 5 through middle school at 6 p.m. July 29. Events to include 50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, shot put and long jump. No charge. 510-723-6662 or KGrace@ChabotCollege.edu.

Cal girl's basketball summer camps

Cal Berkeley will be holding Caren Horstmeier's Girls

Basketball Camps for players of all skill levels as follows: Junior Club day camp, grades K-6, July 26-29; Elite Position camp, grades 9-12, Aug. 7-9 (commuter and resident options); 800-GO-BEARS or www.calbears.com.

Cal lacrosse camps

UC Berkeley will be holding their 2004 Girls and Boys Lacrosse Camps as follows: Girls Day Camp, July 26-29; Boys Day Camp, July 26-29; Elite Camp, July 30-Aug. 1. 800-GO-BEARS. www.CalBears.com or malkoj@berkeley.edu.

Warriors camp

Golden State Warriors will be offering Warriors Basketball Camp this summer for boys and girls ages 8-16 of all skill levels and abilities with 14 sessions at seven locations throughout the Bay Area including Oakland, Pleasanton and San Ramon. Proceeds benefit Warriors Foundation. 510-986-5310 or www.warriors.com.

California Crossfire seeks softball players

California Crossfire 14-under and 16-under A competitive softball teams

are looking for players. 925-933-9642 or bandsm1@comcast.net.

West Side Stunners seek baseball players

West Side Stunners 14-under elite traveling baseball squad is looking for players for competitive play in USSSA, Super Series and other tournaments. 30 to 50 games between now and end of summer. 510-685-4386, www.etsamz.com/stunners or coachrob50@msn.com.

Oakland A's summer camp

Oakland A's will be holding a youth baseball camp for ages 8-12 July 26-30 at the Caldecott Tunnel Fields in Oakland. 510-528-4756, http://henducamp.homestead.com/pa ge1.html or madney@pacbell.net.

Football officials needed

The East Bay Football Officials Association is looking for high school football officials for upcoming season. No experience required. 510-521-4121 or 510-235-5249.

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Boo, hiss! Scratch 'Catwoman' off must-see list

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

There's nothing quite like the sight of an Oscar-winner hissing at a pair of dogs. Or polishing off the last of six or seven tins of tuna ... with her fingers. Perhaps Russell Crowe should study the unintentional exercise in humility that is Halle Berry's "Catwoman."

Because despite the fact that "Catwoman" — which was directed by a person named simply "Pitof" — is not a good movie, one emerges from it feeling rather tenderly toward Berry. Here's an actress willing to do just about anything for her audience, from donning a dreadful costume to enduring a rebirthing scene that appears to have been shot in a puddle of sewage.

Even worse, she's submitted her lovely body to disastrous computer-generated action that makes her look less like a cat than a member of the vermin family. This Catwoman travels low to the ground and very, very fast. There's nothing balletic about her movements, none of the lithe grace that made Michelle Pfeiffer's previous incarnation of this character such a sexy dream to watch in "Batman Returns." If you've seen the latest "Harry Potter" movie, you may find that Berry's Catwoman bears an uncanny resemblance to Scabbers, the Ron Weasley character's pet rat. This is not good.

The fleet of writers (five of them get varying degrees of credit) provide the Catwoman backstory. Her alter ego, the meek Patience, toils away, unnoticed, within a giant corporation. She wears baggy clothes to work, wrings her hands nervously whenever anyone in authority speaks to her and lives a lonely existence. By way of updating the story, the screenwriters have made the corporation an evil cosmetics giant, headed by an aging model, Laurel (Sharon Stone), and her ominously suntanned husband, George (Lambert Wilson).

The company is about to release an addictive and very dam-

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Catwoman"

■ **STARRING:** Halle Berry, Benjamin Bratt, Sharon Stone, Lambert Wilson

■ **RATING:** PG-13 (action violence, a scene of sensuality)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 31 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters

■ **GRADE:** C-

aging anti-aging skin cream. When Patience accidentally overhears its creator having second thoughts about imposing it on the women of the world, she is driven to a watery death by a pair of Laurel's henchmen. A number of kitties, led by a gray cat Patience had previously befriended, converge on the sludge-ridden shore where her body washes up and breathe new life into her.

The next morning Patience wakes up, stretching languorously on a shelf in her apartment, and discovers she's acquired a number of feline characteristics. She doesn't waste much time wondering why or how. A smart decision on the part of the screenwriters; anyone who knows cats knows they are not creatures plagued by the need for introspection.

In theory, it should be impossible to overact in a part like this. But Berry's broad meows and purring enunciation are too over the top to be convincing. She cocks her head to the side and waggles her hips when she walks, which, instead of making us think she's part pussycat, leave us with the impression that she will soon be needing the services of a good chiropractor. Whereas Pfeiffer and Eartha Kitt owned their versions of Catwoman, Berry seems like a little girl playing dress-up.

Which brings us to the costume. She's been dressed in bits of shiny leather that thrust her considerable bosom upward to the heavens and into our faces, impossibly high heels and a pair

of leather pants that she appears to have distressed with her own kittenish paws. She's a porn star version of Catwoman, gorgeous but rapid. Covered from head to toe, Pfeiffer was far sexier.

I had some hopes for Sharon Stone as the villainous Laurel, who has just been supplanted from her role as the face of the cosmetics company in favor of a more youthful beauty (you might remember, the same thing happened to Isabella Rossellini, who got tossed by Lancome around the time she turned 40). But Stone disappoints, putting in an aloof and deliberately wooden performance, as if she were afraid to move her features and disrupt a flattering pose.

The movie seems designed to appeal primarily to a youthful female audience. The soundtrack beats out the kind of throbbing, repetitive music that drives adults out of stores like Abercrombie & Fitch. And the biggest question in this Catwoman's life seems to be whether she can get a date.

As the object of her affections, Benjamin Bratt, playing a detective investigating the crimes that get pinned on Catwoman, gives the easiest, most appealing performance in the movie. He and Berry, at least in her Patience persona, have some genuine chemistry. But when Berry-as-Catwoman encounters Bratt's character, he seems embarrassed for her rather than turned on. We know the feeling.

When Berry followed up an Oscar win for her revelatory "Monster's Ball" performance with a tour of duty as Bond babe Jinx, it was possible to write that decision off. She was an actress who didn't want to be defined by one role, who wanted to have fun with her career. But after "Gothika" and now her turn in this "Catwoman," it seems like Berry's career may be headed toward the litter box.

Reach Mary F. Pols at 925-945-4741 or mpols@cctimes.com.



A GAME OF CAT AND, ER ... Halle Berry and Benjamin Bratt slap together some chemistry "Catwoman."

Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

(PG: crude humor.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. A

■ **"SLEEPOVER":** Alexa Vega stars as uncool Julie, who's holding a slumber party with three pals to celebrate their last day of junior high. Their party turns into a nocturnal quest after rival Staci and her coven of "popular girls" challenge Julie and friends to a scavenger hunt. Besides scoring a drink from a man at a nightclub, the items in the scavenger hunt include a pair of boxer shorts from resident high school hunk Steve. — D. Germain. (PG: thematic elements involving teen dating, some sensuality and language.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. D+

■ **"SPIDER-MAN 2":** A rare sequel, just as nifty as its predecessor and blessed with some indescribably exhilarating moments. But along with the thrilling action, director Sam Raimi takes his Spidey (Tobey Maguire) to emotional depths. It's more romantic than the original, too (with Kirstin Dunst as the sexy-sweet love interest), plus it's got a sense of humor. — M. Pols. (PG-13: stylized action, violence.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. A-

■ **"THE STEPFORD WIVES":** A messy remake of the 1975 camp classic, which feels as though it's been audience tested to death. Nicole Kidman and Matthew Broderick have the lead roles as driven New Yorkers who move to the Connecticut suburbs for escape, only to discover that there's something bizarre about the all-too-perfect wives of Stepford. Kidman and Broderick are badly cast and give awkward performances, but the comic trio of Glenn Close, Bette Midler and Roger Bart, as a gay Stepford wife-husband, keeps the movie afloat against all odds. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, thematic material and language.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B-

■ **"SUPER SIZE ME":** This anti-junk-food documentary manages to entertain even as it informs and alarms. Filmmaker Morgan Spurlock — in excellent physical shape at the beginning of his film — sets out to investigate the health effects of an all-McDonald's diet. In just one month, he gains 25 pounds while his health plummets. Scary, yes, but Spurlock's light touch as a filmmaker, his eye and ear for irony, and his easy good humor lighten the disturbing statistics. — M. O'Sullivan. (Not rated.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B-

■ **"THE TERMINAL":** Viktor (Tom Hanks), an Eastern European man, gets stuck in JFK for a year after his home government is overthrown. His passport and money are no good. Fortunately, he's very clever and enterprising and doesn't mind eating ketchup. Steven Spielberg's latest is skillful as always, overly long as usual, and remarkably false. America is a happy little melting pot and everyone loves Viktor, including a gorgeous flight attendant (Catherine Zeta-Jones) and all the airport employees he meets. Only the humorless bureaucrat (Stanley Tucci) who runs the airport is a jerk, and we're never sure why. — M. Pols. (PG-13: brief language and drug references.) 2 hours. C-

■ **"TIME OF THE WOLF":** Some day after tomorrow, Europe suffers an infrastructure meltdown that drives survivors into the beautiful but unwelcoming countryside. Potable water and shelter are hard to come by and you can't trust anyone you meet. We are introduced to the situation when a packed minivan pulls up to a holiday cabin in the woods owned by a couple with two children. But another family has already taken over the place, and they have a gun. — B. Strauss. (Not rated; in French with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. B

■ **"TROY":** An action picture of stunning scope and stirring spectacle involving a love story between two cal-

low ntwits that is its Achilles' heel. The movie attempts to compensate with frequent visits to the brawny, tawny contours of the rest of Achilles' body. Brad Pitt portrays Achilles, a lean, mean fighting machine preoccupied with his legacy of bravery in battle. When Paris, Prince of Troy (Orlando Bloom), whisks Helen, Queen of Sparta (Diane Kruger), off to Troy, their randy romp sets off one of the ancient world's great battles. — B.

Newman. (R: violence, sexuality, nudity.) 2 hours, 45 minutes. B

■ **"WHITE CHICKS":** Marlon and Shawn Wayans play Marcus and Kevin Copeland, African-American FBI agents who pose as white debutantes. The men pretend to be the specific young women — Brittany and Tiffany Wilson — they are assigned to protect. Then the disguised agents spend the rest of the film hanging out with people who know

those women without being caught. Even without the gender and racial issues, this is a stunningly stupid premise — one that seems even dumber while you're watching the film. — J. Boyar. (PG-13: crude and sexual humor, language, some drug content.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. D-

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The Jack London Square Farmers' Market is open every Sunday, 10 am - 2 pm, Year round, rain or shine, and is located at Jack London Square, Broadway & Embarcadero

Events

ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY — "Delicate Balance" by Edward Albee, through Aug. 14. This story of a man's death in the wreckage of his marriage blends love and fear, sanity and madness, humor and compassion in an evening of emotional theater. Performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.ensembleofberkeley.org

THEATRE COMPANY — "Betrayal" by Harold Pinter, through Aug. 1. A drama about a triangular relationship and its finality told in reverse chronological order. Performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.auroatheatre.com

REPERTORY THEATRE — "Master Class" by Cécile de France, closing July 25. A fictionalized account of Maria Callas' master class at Juilliard in the 1950s, exposing the vulnerability of the diva hidden under a remorseless facade. Performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.repertorytheatre.com

STAGE — "21 Dog Years: Doberman" by Mike Cline, closing Aug. 1. A solo show chronicling the experience during the fall of dot-com culture. Friday performances at 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.stageberkeley.com

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE — "Henry IV, Part 1" by William Shakespeare, through Aug. 1. A production of Shakespeare's play, Parts I and II by Dakin Matthews. Performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.shakespearetheatre.com

Artists, July 25, following the performance. A post-show conversation with members of the cast. Free admission. Performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.artistsberkeley.com

General: \$25 to \$52; seniors: \$15 to \$30; youth ages 4 to 16: \$10 and under: \$5. Tickets for ages 30 and over for Tuesday through Thursday performances, day of performance. Performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.calsakes.com

WORKS THEATRE ENSEMBLE — "The Mysterious Mr. Looney" by C. S. Lewis, through Aug. 1. A play about the man that wrote the plays of Shakespeare, set in 1920 in the English countryside manor of a famed Shakespeare biographer. Performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.workstheatreensemble.com

the plays of Shakespeare, set in 1920 in the English countryside manor of a famed Shakespeare biographer.

\$8 to \$20. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. (510) 558-1381 or www.centralworks.com

CONTRA COSTA CIVIC THEATRE — "My Fair Lady" by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, through Aug. 14. Based on George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," this is the story of Professor Higgins and his attempt to change the uneducated, Cockney flower girl Eliza into a well-spoken lady of manners. Performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.contracostatheatre.com

OAKLAND BOX THEATRE — "Bruised Not Broken: The Cynthia Foreman Story" by Cynthia Foreman, July 24, 8 p.m. The story of a woman whose "dream come true" turns into years of trauma and tragedy and how she turns it around. \$10 to \$15. Performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.oaklandbox.com

THE SAN FRANCISCO MIMETROUPE — "Showdown at Crawford Gulch" by Michael Gene Sullivan, Jason Sherbundy and Bruce Barthol, through Sept. 26. Intended to offer a parallel to modern conflicts, the Troupe presents the world premiere of an original fable about lies, greed and double-crossing in a dusty Texas town in 1886. Performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Live Oak Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.sanfranciscomimetroupe.com

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Free. Performances at 1 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510-420-0813 or www.womanswill.org

POPULAR MUSIC

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY — "Port Chicago," July 31, 6 p.m. An original 75-minute jazz and swing composition by The Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra. \$15 to \$20. (415) 288-8704. 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-637-0200 or <http://www.oaklandlibrary.org>

ALBATROSS PUB — Fours, July 27, 9:30 p.m. \$3. Swing Mine, July 28. Free. Unless otherwise noted, shows begin Wednesdays, 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 p.m. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473 or www.albatrosspub.com

ASHKENAZ — Ras Midas and Congregation, July 23, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Sila, July 24, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Motor Dude Zydeco, Gator Beat, Tom Rigney, Pierre Labossiere, July 25, 3 p.m. \$15 to \$25. Creole Belles and Andrew Carriere, July 27, 8:30 p.m. \$9.

Steve Lucky and The Rhumba Burns, July 30, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Kelsie, July 31, 9:30 p.m. \$15. 1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-5054 or www.ashkenaz.com

BECKETT'S IRISH PUB — Down the Sol, July 23. Nicole, July 24 and July 31. Nicole and the Sisters in Soul, July 28. The Katie Jay Band, July 29. Blair Hanson, July 30.

Free. For ages 21 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790 or www.beckettsirishpub.com

DOWNTOWN BERKELEY'S "SUMMER NOON CONCERTS" — Through July 29. Every Thursday, noon to 1 p.m. SoVoSo, July 29.

Free. Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza, Shattuck Avenue and Center Street, Berkeley. 510-549-2230 or www.downtownberkeley.org

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — KGB, Soleimite, 10 Minutes Down, July 23, \$7. Bat Makumba, Samba Da, July 24. \$8. Poor Bailey, The Apt, Mr. Loveless, Mike Rogers, July 28. \$5.

The People, Orix, Awesome Cool Dudes, July 30. \$7. Insolence, Unjust, Jynx, Desa, Displaced, July 31, 8:45 p.m. \$10.

"Monday Night All Star Jam" with The Steve Cannon Band and Mz. Dee, Mondays, \$4. "Acoustic Wednesday" with Mike Lee Prasad and guests, 10 p.m. Free.

For ages 18 and older. Music begins at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886 or www.blakesontelegraph.com

COFFEE FOR THOUGHT — Ariel, first Friday of the month. Skalamag, third Friday of the month. Free. Shows begin at 8 p.m. unless



PHOTO BY LOU PARADA

'My Fair Lady'

ARTHUR ATLAS is Col. Pickering (left), Deborah Banks is Eliza and Warren McClure is Henry Higgins in the classic "My Fair Lady," playing weekends through Aug. 14 at Contra Costa Civic Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays July 25, and Aug. 1 and 8, at the theater, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. For tickets and information call 510-524-9132.

noted otherwise. 1544 Webster St., Alameda. 510-769-4930 or www.coffeeforthought.net

DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT — Trio Paradiso, July 23. Christy Dana, July 24. Howard Alden, July 25. Jazzschool Faculty Night, July 27. Jules Broussard, Ned Boynton and Bing Nathan, July 28.

Mimi Fox, July 29. Mal Sharp Big Money in Jazz, July 30. Scott Amendola Trio, July 31. Free. Music begins Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, 9 p.m. unless noted otherwise. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or 510-597-0633

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — Jeff Sanford's CartoonJazz, July 23. \$17.50 to \$18.50. Davka, July 24. \$16.50 to \$17.50. Ronny Cox, July 25. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Country Joe Band, July 29. \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Ramblin' Jack Elliott, July 30. \$18.50 to \$19.50. John Renbourn, July 31. \$17.50 to \$18.50. Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761, (866) 468-3399 or www.freightandsalvage.org

HISTORIC SWEET'S BALLROOM — "Friday Night Fish Fry," July 30, 7 p.m. to midnight. Fresh seafood, a full bar, and music by Sonata Pi and The Big Belly Blues Band. For ages 21 and over. \$20 dinner and show; \$12 show only. 1933 Broadway, Oakland. 510-893-3500

JAZZSCHOOL — Stephanie Bruce, July 24, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$18. Pit of Fashion Orchestra, July 25, 4:30 p.m. \$12 to \$18. John Stowell, July 31, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$18.

Jacqui Naylor, Aug. 1, 4:30 p.m. \$20. 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373 or www.jazzschool.com

KIMBALLS EAST — Kindred, July 23 and July 24. \$30. Switch, July 30 and July 31. \$30. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. 6005 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 510-762-BASS, 510-658-2555. www.ticketweb.com or www.kimballs.com

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — Jaranon y Bochinche, July 23, 8:30 p.m. \$15. Folk This, Carol Denney, July 25, 7 p.m. \$8 to \$12. Ismael "Banderolero" Duran, July 29, 8 p.m. \$10.

Naked Barbies, July 31, 8 p.m. \$10. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org

924 GILMAN ST. — Tomorrow, Muga, Bruce Banner, Deadfall, Damage Deposit, July 23. Takanu, Kodan Armada, This Ship Will Sink, Judgment Day, Kakistocracy, July 24.

The Frisk, S.C.A., Because Silence Is A Dangerous Sound, July 25, 5 p.m. Blown to Bits, Death Toll, Against Empire, Holocaust, Death by Excess, July 30. Allegiance, Cast Aside, More to Pride, In Your Face, July 31. All ages welcome. Shows are \$5 and

start at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926 or www.924gilman.org

OAKLAND BOX THEATRE — "Tuesday Night Black Box Series of Creative Music," through Aug. 3. Live and experimental music. July 27: Inner (f)Ear Ballet, Joseph's Bones. \$7 to \$10. Tuesday, 8:25 p.m. 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com

OAKLAND CITY CENTER'S 18TH ANNUAL SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES — Through Aug. 25. An eclectic mix of music including Latin jazz, Cajun and Zydeco. Sandfly, July 28. Free. Music begins at 1 p.m. City Square, 12th Street and Broadway, Oakland. 510-628-8450 or www.oaklandcitycenter.com

QUINN'S LIGHTHOUSE — The Starboard Watch featuring Skip Henderson, Thursdays, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Free. 51 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. 510-536-2050

SHATTUCK DOWN LOW — Styrmie and the Pimp Jones Love Orchestra, Maverick, Otis Goodnight, July 23. Live Salsa Night, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. \$10. For ages 21 and older. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or www.shattuckdownlow.com

THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB — Tempest, July 23. \$12. Go Van Gogh, July 24. \$6. Frisky Frolics, The Green Cards, July 29. \$6.

See EVENTS, Page C6

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Events

FROM PAGE C5

Robbie Fulk, Scout of Firecracker, July 30, \$10.

For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082 or www.starryploughpub.com

STORK CLUB — Denim TV, Battery Life, Trouble Boys, July 23.

Amoeapalooza, July 24.

Les Messieurs du Rock, Landline, July 27.

Aweesome Cool Dudes, Listless, July 28.

The Slow Poissoners, The Voodoo Organist, Collisionville, July 29.

Sputter Doll, Golda Supanova, Pedro Gil, Los Pepiniños, July 30.

Everything Must Go, Feller Quentin, East Bay Chasers, Collateral, July 31.

Lust Lingers, Aug. 1.

\$5. All shows at 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6174 or www.storkcluboakland.com

UC BERKELEY GREEK THEATRE — Harry Connick Jr., July 25, 7 p.m. \$35.50 to \$85.50.

Hearst Avenue and Gayley Road, Berkeley. 510-444-TIXS, (415) 421-TIXS. www.cc.com or www.ticketmaster.com

YOSHIS — Jessica Williams Trio, July 23 through July 25. \$15 to \$20.

Roseanna Vitro featuring Gary Bartz, July 26. \$10 to \$16.

Charnett Moffett Quartet, July 27 and July 28. \$10 to \$16.

Django Reinhardt Project with James Carter, July 29 through Aug. 1. \$12 to \$22.

Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200. www.yoshis.com or www.ticketweb.com

CLASSICAL MUSIC

BERKELEY OPERA — "Bat Out of Hell" by David Scott Marley, closing July 25. An adaptation of Johann Strauss "Die Fledermaus," set in Berkeley in the late 1990s. In English. \$16 to 40 general; \$35 seniors; \$15 youth, disabled; \$10 student rush. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-1903 or www.berkeleyopera.org

CAL PERFORMANCES — Russian National Orchestra, July 25, 3 p.m. A program of works by Adams, Pletnev, Gatti and Tchaikovsky. \$32 to \$60.

Zellerbach Hall, University of California at Berkeley, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9888 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

MIDSUMMER MOZART FESTIVAL — July 29 through Aug. 8. The annual festival honoring the music of Mozart celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Maestro George Cleve will conduct the Midsummer Mozart Festival Orchestra, featuring piano soloists Seymour Lipkin and Jon Nakamatsu, and soprano Christina Major.

Program 1, July 29 through Aug. 1. A performance of "Adagio and Fugue in C Minor for strings," "Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major" and "Piano Concerto No. 24 in C Minor."

Friday, 8 p.m.: At St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley.

\$28 to \$48. (415) 627-9140. www.ticketweb.com or www.midsommer-mozart.org

NEW MUSIC FORUM ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC — July 23, 7:30 p.m. A presentation of works by local composers including chamber music, solos and electronic works. A reception will follow the performance.

Free. Park Blvd Presbyterian Church, 4101 Park Blvd., Oakland. www.newmusicforum.com

OAKLAND SYMPHONY CHORUS — "Summer Sing-In," through Aug. 17. A sing-in of major choral works.

July 27: "Mass in C Minor" by Mozart and "Requiem" by Faure.

\$10. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. First Covenant Church, 4000 Redwood Road, Oakland. 510-207-4093.

ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — Concert, July 24, 7 p.m. Performances by Srimali Lalita Sharma, vocal; Sri Uttam Chakraborty, tabla; Professor Siskiana Chowdhury, violin; and Pandit Swapan Chaudhury, tabla. Presented by the Ali Akbar College of Music.

\$20 general; \$15 students and seniors. 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. (415) 454-6264 or www.aacm.org

DANCE

ASHKENAZ — Creole Belles and Andrew Carriere, July 27, 8:30 p.m. Cajun dance lesson at 8 p.m. \$9.

Balkan Folkdance, July 28, 8 p.m. Congolese Music and Dance, July 29,

7:30 p.m. \$5.

Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Burns, July 30, 9:30 p.m. Swing dance lesson at 8 p.m. \$13.

1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-0504 or www.ashkenaz.com

CAFE DE LA PAZ — Pasion Flamenca, July 23, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live flamenco dancing and music. Dinner is optional with show.

\$10 to \$20; one drink minimum. 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-0662 or www.cafedelapaz.net

CAL PERFORMANCES — "What a Day! 2004 Berkeley/Oakland Alley-Camp Final Performance," July 29, 7 p.m. The grand finale performance by the students of the camp concludes six weeks of training in multiple dance disciplines and coursework. Free.

Zellerbach Hall, University of California at Berkeley, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9888 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER — Peruvian Independence Day Celebration, July 23, 8:30 p.m. A performance of traditional and contemporary Afro-Peruvian music and dance by Jaron y Bochinché. \$15.

"Domingo de Rumba at the Cafe," Aug. 1, 3:30 p.m. A community participatory dance event. Free.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapenna.org

SHATTUCK DOWN LOW — Live Salsa, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. A live salsa band plays with beginning lessons at 8 p.m. and intermediate lessons at 8:45 p.m.

\$10 general; \$5 students. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or www.shattuckdownlow.com

THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB — "Ceili and Dance," Mondays, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

Free. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082 or www.starryploughpub.com

OUTDOORS

CRAB COVE VISITOR CENTER — "Estuary Explorers," July 24 and July 31, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Designed for children ages 6 to 8, the class consists of outdoor exploration and a theme-related craft and snack. This week's theme is "Insect Investigations." Registration required. \$6 to \$8. 510-521-6887.

"Awesome Arthropods," July 25, 11 a.m. to noon. Learn who is an arthropod and discover what it takes to be one.

"Sea Scudors," July 27, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Outdoor exploration and a theme-related craft and snack. For ages 3 to 5. Registration required. Today's theme: "Reptile Rendezvous." \$6 to \$8.

"Bayshore Meanders," Aug. 1, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. A guided walk along the Crab Cove to the Elise Roemer Bird Sanctuary Shoreline Trail. Registration required.

"Nature Fun-Time Series," through Aug. 29. Learn about sharks and whales and other inhabitants of the bay and hear watery tales. Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Free unless otherwise noted; parking fee may be charged. 1252 McKee Ave., Alameda. 510-521-6887 or www.ebparks.org

OAKLAND ZOO — SPECIAL EVENTS — "Family Sundown Safari," July 24 and July 25. Enjoy a fun and educational experience in the unique environment of the Oakland Zoo. Spend an evening with the animals and camp out in the zoo meadow overnight. This program is best suited for children ages 5 and over although infants and toddlers are welcome to join their siblings. Reservations required. Saturday, 6 p.m., to Sunday, 10 a.m. \$60 to \$75 general; \$40 to \$55 children. 510-632-9525, ext. 100. \$8.50 general; \$5 seniors and children ages 2 to 14; free children under age 2; \$4 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 7777 Golf Links Road, exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. 510-632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

REI BERKELEY — A series of lectures on hikes and outdoor equipment.

"Backpacking and Day Hiking the Sierra's Feather River Country: Lakes Basin and Beyond," July 27. Slides and information from author Tom DeMund.

Events are free and begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140.

ROBERTS REGIONAL RECREATION AREA — Within the park's 82 acres

are a heated outdoor pool, bathhouse, playing field, picnic areas and hiking and riding trails. Sea captains once took their bearings from a towering redwood tree on Blossom Rock here.

Free. Skyline Boulevard, a half-mile north of Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. 510-562-PARK or www.ebparks.org

ROBERT SIBLEY VOLCANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE — This park contains Round Top, one of the highest peaks in the Oakland Hills.

Free. 6800 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-562-PARK or www.ebparks.org

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK — NATURE AREA — "Summer Science Weeks," through July 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A weekend session covering biology topics of interest. This week's topic is "Mammals and Birds." Registration required. \$150 to \$166. 510-636-1684.

"Sushi Basics," July 24, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Learn the cultural and natural history of the ancient cuisine and prepare seven basics types. Parents required for children ages 8 to 10. Registration required. \$35 to \$39 general; \$30 to \$34 seniors; \$25 to \$29 children ages 8 to 12.

"Meet the Artist Recorder," July 25, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet photographer Paul Rouse, who will demonstrate use of his photography gear.

"Weekend Tots," July 25, 10:15 to 11:45 p.m. An indoor and outdoor nature adventure for 3- and 4-year-olds accompanied by an adult. Learn about butterflies and moths. Registration required. \$6 to \$8.

"Summer Science Weeks," July 26 through July 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A weekend session covering biology topics of interest. This week's topics include Pond and Stream, Reptiles and Amphibians, Dinosaurs, Astronomy and Rainforests. Registration required. \$150 to \$166. 510-636-1684.

"Twilight Hike," The Creekside Nightshift," July 27, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. A quiet hike to explore the residents of twilight. Bring a flashlight.

"Tilden Tots," July 28, Aug. 26 and Aug. 27, 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. A themed indoor and outdoor exploration program for children ages 3 to 4. This

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AMBIGUOUS JOB RECOMMENDATIONS BY SETH A. ABEL / EDITED BY WALL SHORTZ

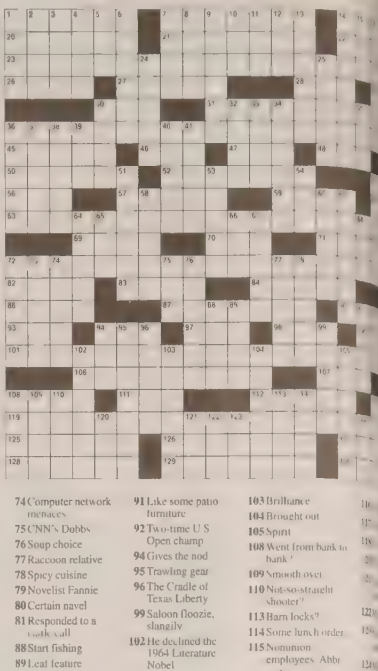
ACROSS

- 1 Gambit
- 7 Kind of day
- 14 Fix permanently
- 20 Emphatic yes
- 21 Her, in legal terminology
- 22 The way things stand now
- 23 Recommendation for a chronically absent employee?
- 26 Sham
- 27 Volkswagen model
- 28 Photo lab abbr.
- 29 Goes out
- 30 MSN competitor
- 31 Solo
- 36 Recommendation for a dishonest employee?
- 45 Spiral-bound envelope
- 46 Fair-hiring letters
- 47 Actor Tompkins of 1978's "La Cage aux Folles"
- 48 Passing concerns? Abba
- 49 Early sixth-century date
- 50 Keys who won five Grammys for her debut album
- 52 Showy flower
- 53 Records
- 56 Like some cars
- 57 Pointe dante

For any three answers, call from 800-448-2446. For more puzzles, visit www.nytimes.com/crosswords

DOWN

- 1 Short row
- 2 Top 5 song by Sarah McLachlan
- 3 Pop
- 4 "The washday miracle" sloganer, once
- 5 Notorious Amin
- 6 Humdum
- 7 Thai currency
- 8 Scited
- 9 Minolta digital camera
- 10 Fell
- 11 Santa winds
- 12 Plural suffix
- 13 Abrogate
- 14 Family of five, say
- 15 Sakakini-to-Winnipeg dir.
- 16 Storage problem
- 17 Decorative needle case
- 18 "Good one!"
- 19 Expresses
- 20 Musical
- 24 Muscunzoo loton
- 25 Empty, as an apartment
- 30 "quote ..."
- 32 Egg



are a heated outdoor pool, bathhouse, playing field, picnic areas and hiking and riding trails. Sea captains once took their bearings from a towering redwood tree on Blossom Rock here.

Free. Skyline Boulevard, a half-mile north of Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. 510-562-PARK or www.ebparks.org

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"Twilight Hike," The Creekside Nightshift," July 27, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. A quiet hike to explore the residents of twilight. Bring a flashlight.

"Tilden Tots," July 28, Aug. 26 and Aug. 27, 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. A themed indoor and outdoor exploration program for children ages 3 to 4. This

month's theme is "Butterflies — Discover the Colorful Natural History of Butterflies." Registration required. \$6 to \$8.

"Tilden Explorers," July 29 and Aug. 26, 3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. A nature adventure program for ages 5 to 7. Registration required. \$6 to \$8.

"Full Moon Peak Hike," July 31, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Walk softly in the woods under the light of the full moon. For ages 8 and over.

"Summer Pond Plunge," July 31, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Explore the denizens of the deep with dip-nets and magnifiers. For ages 4 and over.

EXHIBITS

ALAMEDA ART CENTER — "The American Landscape: Mountains — Metropolis," closing July 29. An all-media juried exhibition.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 1701 Webster St., Alameda. 510-748-7888 or www.alamedartcenter.org

ARTS AND CRAFTS CO-OPERATIVE (ACC) GALLERY — "Whimsy," through Aug. 7. An exhibit of works by Alex Ambrose, Sinead D'Amico, Sarah Hunter, Kathleen King, Denise Laws and Ellen Russell.

Free. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527 or www.acogallery.com

ARDENCY GALLERY — Constance Terrell, open-ended. An exhibit of fabric arts by the artist.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 255 Fourth St., Oakland. 510-836-0831.

BERKELEY ART CENTER — "Sacred Spaces," through Aug. 7. An exhibit of installation works by Seyed Alavi, Taraneh Hemami, Dee Hibbert-Jones and Normi Talsman, Rhoda London and Rene Yung.

Free. Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 1275 Walnut St., Live Oak Park, Berkeley. 510-644-6893 or www.berkeleyartcenter.org

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS CENTER FOR ART AND PUBLIC LIFE — "Pieces of Cloth, Pieces of Culture," through Sept. 6. The cul-

mination of a yearlong project exploring the history and production of Tongan "tapa" cloth.

Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery, State of California Office Building, 1515 Clay St., Oakland. 510-594-3763 or www.cca.edu/center

GRAVITY FEED GALLERY — "Vulnerability Two: A Creative Perspective of CollectivEye," through Aug. 20. The second installment of a summer exhibition featuring works by five local artists.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 1959 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4464 or www.gravityfeed.net

HALL OF PIONEERS GALLERY — "Oakland Chinatown Pioneers," ongoing. Twelve showcases, each focusing on historic leaders and personalities of the community.

Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Chinese Garden Building, 275 Seventh St., Oakland. 510-530-4590

KALA ART INSTITUTE — "Kala Fellowship Exhibition (Part I)," through Aug. 28. An exhibition of new work created during the six-month residencies of four artists chosen through an international competition.

Free. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4:30 p.m. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977 or www.kala.org

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER — Henry Navarro, through August. An exhibit of oil paintings by the Cuban artist. In the Cafe and Lobby.

"Imagine Neruda," through Aug. 30. An exhibit of photographs, posters, art works and memorabilia celebrating poet Pablo Neruda's centennial. In La Pena's Theater.

Free. Wednesday through Sunday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapenna.org

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OAKLAND BOX THEATRE and Sexuality: Shed the Truth," closing July 24. An exhibit that explores gender.

Free. Call for times 1920 Ave., Oakland. 510-461-0000 or www.oaklandbox.com

OAKLAND CITY CENTER — "Man Race At Work," 2005. An exhibit of photos by Jesse Kalisher, featuring people from eight countries to work of their workdays.

Free. Monday through Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. 500 12th St., Oakland. 510-461-0000 or www.museumofart.org

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY — "Dom," through Oct. 1. A sculpture by Robert O'Connor. "Constructions: Robots at Work," through Aug. 6. An exhibit by Al Hong. Free. Monday to 6 p.m. Oakland City Center, 12th St., Oakland. 510-461-0000 or www.museumofart.org

See EVENTS, Page C6

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East meets West

CERRITO-BASED DANCE AND MUSIC TROUPE Gamelan Sekar Jaya is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and Sunday offers a great (and free) opportunity to see what it's all about. The troupe, which specializes in the music and dance of Bali, will perform in San Francisco on Sunday afternoon with acclaimed jazz/afrobeat singer and percussionist Trilok Gurtu. Trilok Gurtu and Gamelan Sekar Jaya perform 2 p.m. Sunday at San Francisco's Stern Grove, 19th Avenue at Sloat Street. The performance is free. Contact 415-252-6252 or www.sterngrove.org.

Events

PAGE C6

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY — MAIN BRANCH — "Conquering Divides: Oakland Confronts Bigotry from the Supreme Court," closing July 31. An exhibit of historic photographs, letters, books, news clippings and other documents from the collection of the Oakland History

and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 5:30 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 125 14th St.

AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY — "Baraka: Evolution of a Poet," closing July 31. An exhibit tracing the development of the poetry of Amiri Baraka. Through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 14th St. 510-637-0200.

ART GALLERY — "Of Ceramics on Exhibit," closing Aug. 7. An exhibit of works by local artists. Through Sunday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 123 Washington Blvd., Fremont. 510-781-4357.

HOUSE — "Viva la Charreria," through Sept. 30. An exhibition of photographs of the family of Sundiata Keita, a centuries-old traditional dance (Mexican rito). Through Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-339-0348.

GROUND GALLERY — "The Anniversary Celebration I," through Sept. 26. An exhibit of painting, media, photography and sculpture by several artists. Pre-registered Bay Women Artists. Through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. 2058 Mount Diablo, Oakland. 510-339-0348.

SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER — "A State-of-the-art facility unifies science education activities." Through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7300 or www.space.org.

HALL OF SCIENCE — "Beakman's World on a Journey," through Sept. 26. A journey of discovery through the principles of science, including learning how to make a rain forest, exploring the time of the dinosaurs, visiting the mysteries of the body.

EVENTS — "Rocks 'n' Stars," through July 23, 6 p.m. Experience the outdoors at a special time. Through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7300 or www.space.org.

UC BERKELEY PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE — "The Invention of the Western Film," through Aug. 1. A brief retrospective that looks at the place of the Western in American film history as well as Americans' views of themselves and their history. Films include archival restorations and several newly struck studio prints. Included are John Ford classics and masterworks rarely seen outside of archival screenings. Scott Simmon, professor of English and co-director of the Film Studies Program at the University of California at Davis, will introduce many of the films.

"Time's Shadow: Film Among the Ruins," through Aug. 31. In conjunction with the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum's exhibition of early photographs, "Time's Shadow," there will be screenings of 11 films and 15 short films that explore themes of ruins.

"Exploit-O-Scope: Promotions and Commotions in the Theater," through Aug. 25. A series of films acknowledging a cheap and gimmicky chapter of

Nerve" will talk with Eli Horowitz about the new collection "Scrapbook."

POETRY AT CODY'S — 7:30 p.m. at Telegraph Avenue.

Alan Soldofsky and Adam Soldofsky, July 24.

Wendy Jeanne Burch and Kevin Patrick Sullivan, July 25.

Alex Green, Zack Rogow and Hannah Stein, July 31.

2454 Telegraph Ave. 510-845-7852

FOURTH STREET — Jim Hightower, July 30. The author discusses "Let's Stop Beating Around the Bush: More Political Subversion."

1730 Fourth St. 510-559-9500.

Free. Readings at 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise. Berkeley.

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY BRANCHES — "Track it Down at Your Library," through Aug. 14. Children

who read 10 books or 1,000 pages and visit the Berkeley Public Library

three times may choose a prize of either a new paperback book, a bowling

game, a ticket for the ferry, or a game of pool. There will be special

programs at the library including mimes, magicians and puppet shows.

For children in grades 1 through 8.

Free. Berkeley. 510-981-6223 or www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY — MAIN BRANCH — EXHIBITS — "What Thels

That? Items from the TeenZone's 'Found' Collection," through Aug. 30.

This exhibit showcases the items left in TeenZone books in recent years including photos, cards and other

items. Anyone who recognizes one as theirs can claim it. Anyone with items

to add to the collection can do so. At TeenZone, 2nd Floor.

"Conquering Divides: Oakland Confronts Bigotry from the Sawmills to the Supreme Court," through Oct. 30.

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the

Oakland History Room pays tribute to Oakland's role in the struggle for civil

rights with documents from its collection including historic photographs,

letters, books and news clippings. 125 14th St. 510-238-5134.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY — EXHIBIT — "Baraka: Evolution

of a Revolutionary Poet," closing July 31. This exhibit traces the

development of New Jersey-born poet Amiri Baraka, aka LeRoi Jones, over

four decades from his bohemian excursions with the Beat writers to his

emerging Pan Africanism and self-definition as a Third World Marxist.

SPECIAL EVENT — "Port Chicago," July 31, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A one-hour

musical theater piece by the Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra, commemorat-

ing the 60th anniversary of the Port Chicago explosion on San Francisco

Bay. \$15 to \$20. (415) 288-8704. 659 14th St. 510-637-0200.

DIMOND BRANCH — "Cutting Up," July 23, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Make paper

animals in this craft program for adults and teens.

"More Cutting Up," July 30, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Make cars, sleds and

carousels for your animal crafts. For adults and teens.

3565 Fruitvale Ave. 510-482-7844.

Free. Oakland. www.oaklandlibrary.org

OUTDOOR MOVIES IN HISTORIC OAKLAND — Through Sept. 10. A

monthly screening of a feature film preceded by short films made by Bay

Area filmmakers. There are a few seats available but filmgoers are encouraged to bring their own chairs.

Films begin at 8 p.m.

Free. Old Oakland, Ninth and Washington streets, Oakland. 510-238-4734.

UC BERKELEY PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE — "The Invention of the

Western Film," through Aug. 1. A brief retrospective that looks at the place of the

Western in American film history as well as Americans' views of themselves and their history. Films include

archival restorations and several newly struck studio prints. Included are John Ford classics and master-

works rarely seen outside of archival screenings. Scott Simmon, professor of English and co-director of the Film

Studies Program at the University of California at Davis, will introduce many of the films.

"Time's Shadow: Film Among the Ruins," through Aug. 31. In conjunction with the University of California,

Berkeley Art Museum's exhibition of early photographs, "Time's Shadow," there will be screenings of 11 films

and 15 short films that explore themes of ruins.

"Exploit-O-Scope: Promotions and Commotions in the Theater," through Aug. 25. A series of films acknowledging a cheap and gimmicky chapter of

film history, from Depth-Dimension 3-D glasses to Hallucinogenic Hypno-Vision and pseudo-Sensurround.

Single feature: \$8 adults; \$5 seniors, disabled, youths under age 17; \$2 for additional feature. Call for times. PFA

Theater, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-5249 or www.bampfa.berkeley.edu

THE USS HORNET MUSEUM'S "SPLASHDOWN 2004" FESTIVAL —

closing July 25. In recognition of the 35th anniversary of Apollo 11, the

USS Hornet will be holding a festival to commemorate all spacecraft recovery

missions performed by the US Navy, from the Mercury to Apollo-

Soyuz programs. Astronauts from the all-Navy crew of Apollo 12 and other

celebrities will be on hand to help celebrate. Exhibits include helicopters

used in connection with the space program, the Mobile Quarantine Facility

used to protect the Earth from potential "moon germs" after the Apollo

14 mission, photographs and unique video footage taken during the Apollo

11 and Apollo 12 recoveries in 1969, and artifacts from the collection of the

USS Hornet Museum. There will be space-related activities such as star

gazing through telescopes on the Flight Deck, demonstrations of robotics

technology, building model rockets, seeing actual moon rocks, and

viewing new Apollo film footage. Included in the 10-day festival will be:

July 23: "The Recovery of Apollo 13," a noon talk by Capt. Chuck Smiley. At 3

p.m. Bob Reed presents his experiences as the editor of the Hornet

Newsletter during the Apollo 11 and Apollo 12 recovery missions in "Scut-

tlebutt and Spacecraft."

July 24: At noon the day of the Apollo Splashdown in 1969 there will be a

Commemorative Ceremony and Public Reception with keynote speaker

Astronaut Alan Bean, Radm. Carl Seiblerich and John Stonesifer, as well as a day-long exhibit of a Mars Rover

Robot from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Mars Outreach Exhibit. At 2:30

p.m. there will be a panel discussion titled "Apollo 11 and 12 Recovery Operations from the Officers Who Were There." A 6 p.m. dinner follows with

Astronaut Alan Bean.

Single Day tickets: \$14 general; \$12 seniors, military, and students; \$6

youths ages 5 to 17. Multi-Day Pass: \$50 per person; \$70 families or couples.

July 23: "Dinner with an Astronaut" tickets (reservations required)

includes an evening of food and entertainment, a chance to mingle with

astronauts and celebrities, and a commemorative Splashdown Pin: \$80 to

\$120. Explorer's Pass includes unlimited museum admission, one dinner

ticket for an evening of choice, invitation to the Members-Only Preview, a

commemorative Splashdown Cap and souvenir badge, and a one-year

member membership: \$100 to \$145 per person. Monday and Wednesday

See EVENTS, Page C8

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Events

FROM PAGE C7

through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., limited access as ship maintenance is being performed. Pier 3 (enter at Atlantic Avenue), Alameda Point, Alameda. 510-521-8448 or www.uss-hornet.org

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER'S

"COMMEMORATION OF PABLO NERUDA'S CENTENNIAL" — Through Aug. 30. Neruda, born in 1904, was a major figure in the world's literature as well as a dominant force in 20th-century South American culture. A native of Chile, he received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1973. This commemoration honors his dedication to Chile and his poetry. Arranged by La Penna Cultural Center and the Friends of Neruda Collective.

EXHIBIT — "Imagine Neruda," through Aug. 30. An exhibit of photographs, posters, art works and memorabilia celebrating Neruda's centennial. In La Penna Theater. Free.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapenna.org

"INDEPENDENT EXPOSURE" SCREENING SERIES — A curated selection of unique short films and videos created by international directors as well as local filmmakers. The evenings will also include live music by local musicians. July 28: "Manifest Destiny Edition." \$5 to \$10. For ages 21 and older. Films begin at 8 p.m. 21 Grand, 4499 23rd St., Oakland. 510-444-7263 or (415) 864-0660 or www.microcinema.com

THE 19TH ANNUAL BERKELEY KITE FESTIVAL AND WEST COAST KITE CHAMPIONSHIPS

— July 31 and Aug. 1, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival features kites of all shapes and sizes, hands-on activities, special guests, demonstrations, food and live music. Free. Cesar E. Chavez Park at the Berkeley Marina, Berkeley. 510-235-5483 or www.higlinekites.com

MUSEUMS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

— "Baraka: Evolution of a Revolutionary Poet," closing July 31. This exhibit traces the development of New Jersey-born poet Amiri Baraka, aka LeRoi Jones, over four decades from his bohemian excursions with the Beat writers to his emerging black consciousness, Pan Africanism and his self-definition as a Third World Marxist.

"Creativity and Resistance: Maroon Cultures in the Americas," ongoing. An exhibit featuring historical drawings and maps, a timeline, contemporary photographs and a selection of ceremonial and daily life objects.

"Golden Road to Freedom: The African Legacy in California, 1775-1900," ongoing. An exhibit focusing on the role that people of African descent played in later expeditions and settlements before the annexation of California.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-637-0200 or <http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/>

ALAMEDA MUSEUM — The museum offers permanent displays of Alameda history, the only rotating gallery showcasing local Alameda artists and student artwork as well as souvenirs, books and videos about the rich history of the island city.

"Escapement," closing July 30. An exhibit of stones and foliage from Yosemite Valley.

"P.G. Meier," closing July 30. An exhibition of architectural images and ordinary objects.

SPECIAL EVENT — "The Pardee Legacy," July 29, 7 p.m. A presentation by David Nicolai, curator of the Pardee Home in Oakland.

Free. Wednesday through Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. 510-521-1233 or www.alamedamuseum.org

EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS — A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection that was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum.

Donation; \$2 guided tour. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland. 510-763-0141.

HALL OF HEALTH — EXHIBITS — "This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health.

"Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an exercise for calculating how calories are burned.

"Draw Your Own Insides," ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies.

"Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Storytelling Series: Tales of Your Amazing Body," through Aug. 12. The museum staff will read from books in the collection. For ages 3 to 10. July 23, July 27, July 29, Aug. 3, Aug. 5, Aug. 10 and Aug. 12, 2 p.m. \$3 suggested donation.

"Bacteria," July 28 and Aug. 11, 2 p.m. A puppet show about bacteria and how to get rid of them.

Suggested \$3 donation; free children under 3. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1564 or www.hallofhealth.org

JUDAH L. MAGNES MUSEUM — The museum's permanent collection includes objects of Jewish importance including ceremonial art, film and video, folk art and fine art, paintings, sculptures and prints by contemporary and historic artists.

"A Voice Silenced," through Sept. 19. An exhibit by Diane Neumaier of photography of family snapshots taken by her father, John (Hans) Neumaier of his middle-class Jewish-German family in the 1930s. The exhibit focuses on his mother, Leonore Schwartz Neumaier, the first contralto of the Frankfurt Opera.

EXTENDED — "Brought to Light: The Stoned Collections of the Judah L. Magnes Museum," extended through Aug. 15. An exhibit that includes 130 objects drawn from the museum's archives, library and collections.

Works featured include a recovered Torah Ark from the Queen Mary ocean liner, documents from the Spanish Inquisition, a drawing by Albert Einstein and works by Marc Chagall.

Free. Through summer. Sunday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950 or www.magnes.org

JUNIOR CENTER OF ART AND SCIENCE — A center dedicated to encouraging children's active wonder and creative response through artistic



Film festival opens

TODAY OPENS the Berkeley portion of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, with films playing at Wheeler Auditorium on the Berkeley campus through Aug. 5. At noon, see "Checkpoint" (pictured), a documentary about life at the checkpoints between Palestinian territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Other films that day include "Nina's Tragedies," which won 11 Israeli Academy Awards. \$11. Enter campus at Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, through Sather Gate and turn right. Wheeler is immediately left. 925-275-9490, www.sjff.org.

and scientific exploration of their natural urban environment. The center's classes, workshops, exhibits and events integrate art and science.

EXHIBITS — Three educational exhibits are mounted in the "Children's Gallery" each year. A docent-led tour, demonstrations, hands-on activities and art projects are available to school groups throughout the year.

"A Child's Garden," through Aug. 31. A variety of friendly garden creatures in their habitats from which children can watch them and illustrate what they learn through drawings. The animal and plant portraits in the exhibit are by students ages 5 to 16.

Free; programs and special exhibits have a fee. Through August: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 558 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-839-5777.

MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM

The collection includes over 6,000 objects, approximately 4,000 prints and drawings, 900 textiles, 200 paintings, and 900 small ceramics and sculptures. Each season works from the Museum's permanent collection are shown along with the regular season's

program.

"Our Culture Is Our Resistance: Repression, Refuge and Healing in Guatemala," through Aug. 15. An exhibit of photographs by Jonathan Moller.

"Keys to the Koop: Humor and Satire in Contemporary Printmaking," through Aug. 15. An exhibit of selections from the Schnitzer Collection.

Free. Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164 or www.mills.edu/MCAM

MUSEE DES HOMMAGES — "Masterworks Copies by Guy Colwell," ongoing. A new museum of masterwork recreations of famous European paintings handpainted by master California artist Colwell. The paintings, which cover a wide spectrum of European painting from Van Eyck in the 15th century to Picasso in the 20th century, are full-scale, faithful copies of works by famous artists of the past, created in an attempt to understand the secrets of these great artists. The museum does not have regular hours so

call ahead when planning a visit. Free. Call ahead for appointment. 2028 Ninth St., Berkeley. 510-841-4210 or www.atelier9.com

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE VILLAGE

— A science museum with an African-American focus promoting science education and awareness for the underrepresented. The science village chronicles the technical achievements of people of African descent from ancient times to present. There are computer classes at the Internet Café, science education activities and seminars. There is also a resource library with a collection of books, periodicals and videotapes.

\$6 general; \$4 children ages 6 to 18. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 630 20th St., Oakland. 510-893-6426 or www.ncaif-blackengineers.org

THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA

— "Theresa Thau Heyman: A Curator's Legacy," through Jan. 2, 2005. Theresa Heyman, former senior curator of the Oakland Museum of California, passed away in January.

leaving a 30-year legacy of breaking collections and California photographic makers. This exhibition sampling of her collection photographs by Dorothy Ansel Adams and Imogen Ham, and works on paper by Diebenkorn and Elmer Boykin. "In Our Own Voice: The Korean Community," through Aug. 29. An exhibit of artifacts and memorabilia highlighting the Korean American community. An installation that includes photographs, historical artifacts, presentation and an interactive line.

"Henry J. Kaiser: Think Big," Aug. 29. An exhibit of artifacts and memorabilia highlighting the life of entrepreneur Henry J. Kaiser. A re-creation of a man with Kaiser innovations and Kaiser inventions. "Online Museum," Thursday 4 p.m. Explore the museum on videocassette in the Department Library. Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

See EVENTS, Page C9

THE DINING GUIDE

Legend: \$ rating is average dinner entrée price

AE	... American Express	\$.....	Entrées under \$7
CB	... Carte Blanche	\$S	\$7-\$14
DC	... Diners Club	\$SS	\$15-\$20
DS	... Discover Card	\$SSS	\$20+
MC	... MasterCard		
VS	... Visa	FB.....	Full Bar
AC	... All Cards accepted	RR....	Reservations recommended
CA	... Checks accepted	W.....	Wheelchair access

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

300 - 29th Avenue, Oakland (510) 261-1621

Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week, Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Bar Hours: Mon. - Thu. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Fri. - Sat.

Speisekammer

2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda (510) 522-1300

Speisekammer presents Modern German Cuisine that is good for the body and soul. Sauerbraten, Wiener Schnitzel and a house recipe Bratwurst are standards. Light fare such as the Gemusestrudel (Vegetable Strudel with Goat Cheese, Roasted Red Pepper and Spinach. Served in a Carrot Sauce) give the menu a modern (or California) twist. There is a word in the German language that has no counterpart in English: Gemütlichkeit. It connotes a combination of comfort, friendship, and the general sentiment of being completely at ease with your surroundings. Speisekammer's atmosphere is Gemütlich. Large tables and a private room make it a great place for groups. The Beer is Strictly German. The Cocktails are Distinctly American, and the wine list has some of each. Lunch is served Tues-Fri - Grilled Pannini Sandwiches and Salads are offered along with some of the more popular entrée items. Sunday Brunch is to die for 10am-2pm. Dinner is served Tues-Sun W, \$S-\$SS, AC, FB, RR

Cesare's Fine Italian Cuisine

2520 Mountain Blvd., Oakland (510) 531-9400

Cesare's is a long established, fine dining restaurant serving Italian Cuisine to Oakland/East Bay families for over 25 years. There is a full service bar and kitchen located near the Mormon Temple and Greek Orthodox Church landmarks, and 1 mile from Montclair Village. Owners Doris and Oscar are always here to welcome our customers. Traditionally, every 4th of July week we close for vacation, this year we will re-open July 13th, bar at 4:00pm and dining at 5:00pm. See you soon!

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King Wong is alive and cooking in Albany

By Nicholas Boer
STAFF WRITER

If cooking were a martial art, King Wong would be a black belt. Ever try to debone a tiny quail? Chef Wong doesn't even use a knife.

"Push the meat, pull the bones — I can do it with my eyes closed," he says.

Good thing. A recent party of 20 all ordered the quail appetizer. Most chefs would have panicked. Not Wong. He's the king of cool.

Maybe every quail isn't presented as precisely — as prettily — as the one I just ordered, but whenever one dines at Albany Bistro, eyes should be kept wide open.

The crispy roast quail (\$7.95) — on a bed of quick-braised cabbage redolent of garlic and smoky bacon — is flawlessly tender and comes garnished with an ethereal ball of fried potato strings.

When Wong opened Tomato Tree in Concord in 1994, he already had a long and impressive resume. Tomato Tree was quaint, with a low-rent dining room, but Concord had never seen such a sophisticated restaurant.

By the time Wong opened 301 Bistro in Danville (in late 2001), his refined and affordable menu probably gave nearby establishments Bridges and Patrick David's a scare.

In Albany, Wong has found a big, handsome space and a foodie neighborhood that should fully appreciate his talents. The menu is served all day every day (if brunch, lunch or dinner is unavailable, you can always select from the tantalizing tapas on the bar menu).

An open-all-the-time eatery is bound to become popular with the locals, but it's Wong's former patrons who are most grateful.

"They come to the door and say 'I found you,'" Wong says.

Wong's wife, Linda, knows and greets many customers, and the couple held a special opening dinner for their regular clientele.

All of our appetizers are worthy of double-digit prices and are presented with world-class style. My only complaint is with the salad (\$4.95): The colorful beets have been boiled rather than roasted — and their soft blandness can't be helped by Wong's warm honey mustard vinaigrette.

A plentiful serving of ahi tuna (\$7.95) is seared black and blue and paired with two seaweeds, one bright green and spiked with sesame oil and soy. Delicious.

The scallop appetizer (\$7.95) — quickly seared with a summer salsa of mango, roasted tomato and jalapeno — is a keeper. It even comes with a bonus: a few delicate mouthfuls of homemade pasta tossed in brown butter.

We order two of Wong's signature dishes — pistachio-crusted rack of lamb and panko-crusted seabass. Customers have followed him from restaurant to restaurant just for these two dishes.

The seabass (\$19.95) is phenomenal. Wong grinds the coarse panko before applying — to ensure that the crust browns evenly — and serves it with sauteed spinach and two luscious sauces: a lemony mayonnaise and an aromatic ginger cream.

The lamb (\$21.95) is good but overcooked. Consequently, Wong's creative accessories appear more like camouflage.

Several dishes are making their first appearance tonight, and I hope the Asian Roasted Halibut (\$14.95) has already made its last. Strangely pink, like Chinese pork, the fish is roasted with a glaze that includes rice wine vinegar and ketchup. The fish itself is dry and uninteresting.

The salmon (\$15.95) is as good as the halibut is strange. Served with a miso glaze and a rich "risotto" of summer corn, my fork reaches across the table enough times to become unwelcome. Homemade desserts (\$5.95) are all good, and as handsomely presented as the entrees. A tiramisu-like cake, made with sabayon and sponge cake, is particularly good.

For a light summer dessert, Wong blends marsala and Madeira, tosses it with ripe berries and garnishes the glass with spun sugar.

Wong is certainly an accomplished master chef. If he misses now and again, it's only because he's shooting so high and pushing the envelope. But that's OK. Even the duds are not wasted — still entertaining, like those dubbed kung fu movies.

Reach food editor Nicholas Boer at 925-943-8254 or nboer@cctimes.com.

ALBANY BISTRO: REVIEW VISIT ON JUNE 30



ALBANY BISTRO'S panko-crusted seabass is as popular as it is impressive. "It's pretty much my bread and butter," says chef-owner King Wong. It was also a hit at Wong's Tomato Tree and 301 Bistro.

FOOD



(overall value rating of our visit; out of a possible 5)

■ **CUISINE:** Pan-Asian with a California twist.

■ **PRICES:** \$5.95-\$6.95 (bar tapas), \$14.95-\$21.95 (dinner entrees).

■ **HOME RUN:** Quail appetizer and panko-crusted seabass.

■ **STRIKEOUT:** Asian Roasted Halibut.

■ **VEGETARIAN:** Risotto or chef's choice. Will accommodate vegans whenever possible.

■ **KIDS MENU:** Pasta and hamburgers always available for \$5.95.

■ **DESSERTS:** Creative and homemade.

■ **FREEBIES:** Potato rolls, focaccia and seeded baguettes from Semifreddi's Bakery.

■ **BEVERAGES:** Espresso drinks. Full bar (the Blue Hawaii is popular).

■ **CHECK:** \$213.42: four entrees, four appetizers, four desserts, one bottle wine.

AMBIENCE/SERVICE

■ **NOISE LEVEL:** Mellow on our visit; background jazz.

■ **MOOD:** Warm, upscale bistro.

■ **SPECIAL AREA:** Modern bar.

■ **SERVICE POINT:** I was recognized, and the waitress was nervous but friendly. A beer was ordered but never arrived. The wine was fumbled with.

INFORMATION

■ **WHERE:** 1403 Solano Ave., Albany.

■ **HOURS:** Lunch 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays; brunch 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays; dinner 5-9 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays and 5-9:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays; tapas served all day and late (until 11 p.m.) on Fridays and Saturdays.

■ **PARKING:** Fairly easy to find on nearby side streets.

■ **CONTACT:** 510-528-1237, www.albanybistro.com.

■ **DATE OPENED:** May 10, 2004

■ **PRINCIPALS:** King Wong, chef-owner; Linda Wong, manager-owner.

■ **RESERVATIONS:** A good idea on weekends.

■ **PRIVATE PARTIES:** Very accommodating for all sizes up to 70 if booked in advance.

THE WINE LIST

I usually find a flow or pattern to restaurant wine lists — a particular style of wines that complements the food or offers uniqueness (or even sameness). This list confuses me with its selections. They're not that great a match for the food — too many merlots and cabernets for the complex, seafood-focused menu. They're not unique — the whites are mostly chardonnays and sauvignon blancs. Sparkling wines run from the low-end, bulk process Wycliff Brut (\$19) to Dom Perignon (\$200). There's one viognier, Trentadue Russian River Valley, 2002 (\$7 a glass, \$27 a bottle), and a dry French rose that are good matches. In the reds, there are three pinot noirs and one zinfandel for food that seems to shout for lighter, spicier-style reds. Syrah could work well, but the three offered are grocery-store caliber. Corkage is \$12, and they offer 2-ounce tastes for \$3.

— Jim Meyers

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Bourne Supremacy' cleverly ducks and weaves

by Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

been two years since we saw Jason Bourne, but I'm not reporting that in "The Bourne Supremacy," he's just as wrong, lion-hearted and wild as ever. He's also, if not an even better driver before.

lost the services of Doug Liman, the director who helped make Bourne — and Matt Damon, Bourne — a great new action hero in "The Bourne Identity," but Paul Greengrass ("Sunday") has barely a bead in taking over the reins of this new Bourne adventure, and from Robert Ludlum's somewhat too long and too many extended chaotic car chases, but almost as intelligent, exciting and fun as its predecessor.

last we saw Bourne, he was in a far-off sun-drenched land with his lady love, Franka Potente. Two years later, Bourne still has amnesia, but they are happily settled in India, in an artfully constructed cottage overlooking a lake. That is, until Bourne's past catches up to him.

operation in Berlin has gone very wrong. An exchange of money for information was interrupted by a killer (Karl Urban, who becomes an enticingly sinister buyer and seller and with the goods, leaving a neatly planted finger-pointing to Bourne.

that our man Bourne has made such a mistake, a woman in charge of the CIA, Pamela Landy (Joan Allen), is a series of blunders over being made to stop and ponder that sets in motion a mass-murder for Bourne, who member had brokered a deal with his former boss along the lines of "If you're looking for me, I'll find you the day."

back in India, Bourne has just finished an enormous when he spots Urban) striding through his. His instincts tell him something "not right"



THEY'RE BACK: Matt Damon and Julia Stiles pick up where they left off in this sequel to "The Bourne Identity."

REVIEW

- **WHAT:** "The Bourne Supremacy"
- **STARRING:** Matt Damon, Franka Potente, Karl Urban, Brian Cox, Joan Allen, Julia Stiles
- **RATING:** PG-13 (Intense action violence)
- **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 48 minutes
- **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters
- **GRADE:** B

about the way the outsider looks and within the movie's opening minutes, Bourne, Marie and the movie are off on the first of many chaotic car chases.

If you're at all familiar with this kind of plot, you know who will suffer at Kirill's hands, and you know too what kind of motivation that will provide for our hero. Greengrass directs these particular scenes with a surprising poignancy. They happen under water, in the deep green of

an Indian river, and they have a peculiar, haunting beauty. Indeed, in a nearly silent scene in an interrogation room in Naples sometime later, we hear the tell-tale burble of underwater activity again, echoing as if in Bourne's mind.

The rest of the movie is a giant game of cat and mouse, decked out with multiple bad guys and played out across a vast landscape, from Langely to Moscow, with stops in the Netherlands, Naples and Berlin. Bourne assumes Kirill has been sent by the CIA, which means that Ms. Landy better watch her back. There's also questionable activity within the Agency, which means more back-watching for everyone. Then there are the Russians, who roar back into the villainous status they had the patent on during the Cold War.

Bourne's boss (Chris Cooper), the mastermind of the so-called Treadstone project, which bred assassins, is dead, but his colleague Ward Abbott (the great Brian Cox) is still at the CIA. We also get re-

acquainted with Nicky, the former Parisian operative who kept the various Treadstone assassins on schedule. Sad to say, Julia Stiles is still jarringly wrong for the role; she looks like a coed whose greatest concern is the art history paper she's got due on Tuesday.

Greengrass keeps the action tight and exciting, and generally unpredictable. "The Bourne Supremacy" does overstay its welcome a tad, though, with an ending that goes on and on. As for the car chases, as vivid as they are, I don't require them in such quantity, nor so many close-ups of gas and brake pedals.

If this second film is as successful as the first, it seems likely that Bourne could develop into a Bond-like franchise. The two men do, after all, share a pair of initials. But Bourne is Bond with a twist. He's capable of a long-term relationship, for one thing (it's safe to presume that the last woman Bond spent two whole years with was his mother). He's also burdened with some serious angst, which Bond is not famil-

iar with. Bourne knows he was brainwashed into being a killing machine, but the details are fuzzy. When Marie peeks in his diary, we see he's wrestling with the existential question "Who was I?" And oy, the headaches he gets at night. (Bond only gets headaches in the morning.)

Bourne is as efficient, lethal and enterprising as Bond, but what makes him cooler is that he doesn't look the part, and as long as Damon plays him, he never will. Every time the actor turns that cute, snub-nosed profile of his to the camera, I find myself thinking, "What a nice-looking boy. Shouldn't he be playing soccer on a New England college campus instead of chasing nefarious Russians?" It's that dichotomy that continues to make Jason Bourne the most interesting action hero out there. Like Tobey Maguire's Spider-Man, he keeps us wondering.

Reach Mary Pols at 925-945-4741 or mpols@cctimes.com.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

Compiled from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

Fiction

1. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown. (Doubleday, \$24.95.)
2. "The Rule of Four," by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason. (Dial, \$24.)
3. "The Jane Austen Book Club," by Karen Joy Fowler. (Putnam, \$23.95.)
4. "Ten Big Ones," by Janet Evanovich. (St. Martin's, \$25.95.)
5. "Little Scarlet," by Walter Mosley. (Little Brown, \$24.95.)
6. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," by Mitch Albom. (Hyperion, \$19.95.)
7. "1906: A Novel," by James Dalessandro. (Chronicle, \$24.95.)
8. "A Good Year," by Peter Mayle. (Knopf, \$24.)
9. "Song of Susannah," by Stephen King. (Donald M. Grant/Scribner, \$30.)
10. "The Birth of Venus," by Sarah Dunant. (Random House, \$21.95.)

Nonfiction

1. "My Life," by Bill Clinton. (Knopf, \$35.)
2. "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim," by David Sedaris. (Little Brown, \$24.95.)
3. "Eats, Shoots and Leaves," by Lynne Truss. (Gotham, \$17.50.)
4. "The South Beach Diet," by Arthur Agatston. (Rodale, \$24.95.)
5. "Shadow Divers," by Robert Kurson. (Random House, \$26.95.)
6. "Father Joe," by Tony Hendra. (Random House, \$24.95.)
7. "Obviously On He Salls," by Calvin Trillin. (Random House, \$12.95.)
8. "Who Let the Dogs In?" by Molly Ivins. (Random House, \$22.95.)
9. "Going Nuclear," by Geoffrey Nunberg. (PublicAffairs, \$18.95.)
10. "What's the Matter with Kansas?" by Thomas Frank. (Metropolitan, \$24.)

Trade paperback fiction

1. "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead, \$14.)
2. "The Known World," by Edward P. Jones. (Amistad, \$13.95.)
3. "The Secret Life of Bees," by Sue Monk Kidd. (Penguin, \$14.)
4. "Middlesex," by Jeffrey Eugenides. (Picador, \$15.)
5. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," by Mark Haddon. (Vintage, \$12.)
6. "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency," by Alexander McCall Smith. (Anchor, \$11.95.)
7. "The Time Traveler's Wife," by Audrey Niffenegger. (Harvest, \$14.)
8. "Life of Pi," by Yann Martel. (Harvest, \$14.)
9. "The Lovely Bones," by Alice Sebold. (Back Bay, \$13.95.)
10. "Kalahari Typing School for Men," by Alexander McCall Smith. (Anchor, \$11.95.)

Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "Reading Lolita in Tehran," by Azar Nafisi. (Random House, \$13.95.)
2. "Under the Banner of Heaven," by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor, \$14.95.)
3. "Stiff," by Mary Roach. (Norton, \$13.95.)
4. "The Devil in the White City," by Eric Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
5. "Dude, Where's My Country?" by Michael Moore. (Warner, \$14.95.)
6. "Stupid White Men," by Michael Moore. (Regan Books, \$13.95.)
7. "Beyond Belief," by Elaine Pagels. (Vintage, \$13.)
8. "Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game," by Michael Lewis. (Norton, \$13.95.)
9. "We Talk Pretty One Day," by David Sedaris. (Little Brown, \$14.95.)
10. "Bushwhacked," by Molly Ivins and Lou Dubose. (Vintage, \$13.)

Mass market paperback

1. "Angels & Demons," by Dan Brown. (Pocket, \$7.99.)
2. "Deception Point," by Dan Brown. (Pocket, \$7.99.)
3. "Digital Fortress," by Dan Brown. (St. Martin's, \$7.99.)
4. "The Notebook," by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner, \$7.50.)
5. "The Bourne Supremacy," by Robert Ludlum. (Bantam, \$7.99.)

— Northern California Independent Booksellers Association

THEATRE

Choir — For ages 8-14, Sept. 1 and 2. Music reading and singing as well as the performance. Perform on the stage and on tour in England, May 2005. Tickets: 510-843-7745.

Children's Chorus — Singing at all levels: the training chorus (ages 8-14), the performing chorus (ages 15-18) and the chamber chorus (ages 19-22). Auditions and auditions will be held through September. Some musical background is required for the performing and chamber choruses. 925-292-2663 or director@ccchoir.org

Education — End of Summer Camp, various times by request. Camp runs Aug. 2-20. Ages 10-15 work with professional musicians during an intensive training program. Classes include technique, background, costume and set design.

voice training, choreography, makeup and improvisation. The program culminates in a performance Aug. 21 at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. 925-943-5846

Contra Costa Children's Chorus — Placement interviews are now being scheduled for the 2004-05 chorus season starting in September. Ages 5-18. This program includes singing of varied repertoire, sight-singing instruction and performing. Advanced students have travel opportunities and music camp. 925-945-7101, Ext. 200, or www.childrenschorus.org.

Contra Costa Christian Theatre — "It's a Wonderful Life," 3-6 p.m. Aug. 8 and 7-9 p.m. Aug. 9. Needed: Mr. Potter (age 45-plus); two to four small male roles (20-plus); Violet and perhaps the role of Mary Bailey (both age 20-30); two to four small female roles (age 20-plus); one boy age 10; one to two boys age 12; one girl age 7; one girl age 9. Cold read from script. Non-

AEA. No pay. May be asked to sing. Callbacks 7-10 p.m. Aug. 11. Performances Nov. 19-Dec. 19. Del Valle Theatre, Walnut Creek. For appointment, schedule online at www.CCChristianTheatre.org/auditions/auditions.html or call 925-933-3200, Ext. 2, and leave message

Contra Costa Civic Theatre — "Noises Off," noon-3 p.m. Saturday and 7 p.m. Monday. Prepare one-minute modern comic monologue and read from script. Callbacks 7 p.m. Wednesday. Rehearsals September-October. Performances Oct. 22-Nov. 20. Non-AEA, no pay. No appointment necessary. 510-524-9132.

Danville Girls Chorus — 2004-2005 season, August 12, Danville. Girls in grades 3-8. Singing, performing and learning how to read and appreciate music of all types. No experience is required. Appointments: 925-837-2624.

Devil Mountain Chorus — Seeking

men to sing four-part harmony during informal songfests, vocal education sessions and show performances. Sight-reading not necessary. Rehearsals and auditions, 7:45 p.m. Tuesdays, Trinity Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 2317 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-938-7664

Diablo Valley Masterworks Choral — Accepting auditions for the winter season starting Aug. 23. Meets 7-10 p.m. Mondays. Richard Kamprath, director. Music building, Room 101, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill. 925-228-8690

Diablo Valley Chorus — Seeking women to sing a cappella four-part harmony. Auditions are scheduled on a continuing basis through September. Free vocal production lessons and performance opportunities are offered to chorus members. Rehearsals 7:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Faith Christian Fellowship Church, 860 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek. 925-295-0985.

Martinez Idol Singing Competition — Open to all teens ages 10-19. There will be six competitions. Three judges will decide the two top performers from each competition. The 12 finalists will compete Dec. 31 for a first, second and third prize at First Night Martinez. Rules, applications, release forms, competition dates, times and locations can be found at www.geocities.com/firstnightteenboard. All singers must have a signed release form on file and a parent signature if under 18. Singers must be registered 24 hours prior to the competition; no sign-ups the day of the event. Register at Downtown Music, 511 Main St., Martinez. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday. 925-372-8295.

Oakland Symphony Chorus — 2004-05 season. Singers to perform Rachmaninoff's Vespers, Bernstein's Mass with the Oakland East Bay Symphony and Brahms' Requiem with the Young People's Symphony Orchestra. Singers who have attractive voices, sight-reading skills and a commitment to fine choral singing. Rehearsals 7:30-10 p.m. Wednesdays. Auditions: 510-207-4093

MOZART

PAGE C12

grew up in New York City, Joan of Arc Junior High School of Music and Mammes College of where one of his classmates, jazz pianist Bill Evans, was a lifelong friend and collaborator. Later, he worked with Pierre Monteux, Dmitri Shostakovich, George Szell, and Claudio Ferrara.

years ago, he was cast as Mozart's comic opera, "The Abduction from the Seraglio," at the Flint Center in Flint, and one night after the show, some other musician named Mickey Rooney/Judy Garland, somebody said,

"Wouldn't it be fun if we could play Mozart all the time?" And somebody else said, "We could make it an all-Mozart festival!"

"Look, I'm no good at the organizing side," said Cleve. "But if you ever get serious about making the arrangements, give me a call."

Three months later, the phone rang. "It's arranged," they said. The first year, they gave three performances at Flint Center, playing the Adagio and Fugue for Strings, Symphony No. 39, and Piano Concerto No. 24.

"Nobody knew who we were, but the critical reviews were fantastic, so by the end we were getting a really big buzz. We were on our way."

As the festival grew, a who's who of musicians lined up to perform with it, including Andre

Watts, Radu Lupu, Peter Serkin, Daniel Kobialka, Alicia Della Rocca, and jazzman Chick Corea.

"One of the nicest things that happens to me when I guest conduct with other orchestras is how often other musicians ask me if they could perform at the festival," says Cleve. "They're willing to come out here and make considerably less money than they could elsewhere, simply because they want to play Mozart at such a high level." There will be no end of pieces for them to play. Even though Mozart was only 36 when he died, he was so prolific; the festival hasn't gotten even halfway through the canon yet.

Over the years, the festival has spread to venues throughout the Bay Area. This year it will perform at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, the Palace

of the Legion of Honor, Gundlach Bundschu Winery in Sonoma, Villa Montalvo in Saratoga, and Le Petit Trianon in San Jose.

There will be two different programs at each place. The first will feature the same pieces that were played in the original performance, 30 years ago.

The second will feature arias from the opera where it all began — "The Abduction from the Seraglio" — followed by Piano Concerto No. 16, and culminating in an unbeatable climax: Mozart's last symphony, No. 41, better known as "The Jupiter."

"After the final movement of 'The Jupiter,'" says Cleve, "there's nothing else to say."

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or email msnapp@cctimes.com.

GRiffin

PAGE C12

he hopes that his book will be a story even more accessible to people today. Thanks to the Internet. When we view the world through the lens of a deeper understanding of the human condition, we can begin to understand that both the Buddhist teachings are a spiritual journey. Indeed, the comparisons between the two systems are so obvious that it's surprising that no one has written about it before. Says

Griffin, "If two traditions or systems are actually talking about the deeper 'truths' then they must share something fundamental." All religions have a common root, he says.

Griffin teaches a weekly meditation group in Berkeley. He also is a Community Dharma Leader at Spirit Rock. "I'm not the typical teacher," says Griffin. "They're emotionally well-balanced people. I'm more neurotic," he jokes. But perhaps that is precisely why he is receiving so many messages of thanks from both those in recovery, and those seeking a Buddhist path.

Having been in the trenches, he can relate to the trials of others in a way that totally enlight-

ened beings cannot. "When I teach, I put my guts out on the table, and I've done the same in my book," he says. "That is a gift that I give."

Griffin's path as a writer has been uneven. Having written three unpublished novels, he was discouraged, but he shifted gears, took classes, shaped up his prose, and began again. "You just show up, every day. One page at a time," he says. His challenge now? "I'm finding my own demons around success." Having always defined himself as unsuccessful, he is uncomfortable in this role as a published author. "This is a new one on me," he says.

During a Wednesday night

meditation group, Griffin's talk focuses on joy. He jokes that being Buddhists, everyone panics when something delightful happens. "We think something is wrong when we feel great," he says. He rings a chime that resonates throughout the room, the meditators "sit" for about 40 minutes, guided by Griffin who gently reminds, "If your mind is wandering come back to your breath. Every moment is unique, every moment precious. Every moment is another chance to start again."

Suzanne LaFetra is a freelance writer in Berkeley. Contact her at suzlafeetra@yahoo.com.

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Arts & Leisure

Friday, July 23, 2004



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Be all that you can virtually be

PAY ATTENTION, potential soldier! The military needs bodies. The National Guard is depleted — what happens if we have a major quake in California? — and so are the regular forces. You've watched those "Be All You Can Be" ads on TV, and you may have seen those scenes in "Fahrenheit 9/11" showing two Marines in dress blues trolling a suburban shopping mall for recruits.

But you may not have heard about another, increasingly popular, recruiting tool nowadays. I learned about it the other day visiting a friend up in Montclair whose 22-year-old son Frank is a software engineer. Frank was immersed in playing the official U.S. Army online game, "America's Army." This one-time Army brat just had to check it out.

To say "America's Army" is becoming popular is an understatement: The authoritative Web site CNET recently reported that "America's Army" is now one of its Top Five downloads. The graphics of the online game are both impressive and realistic.

"That's because the guts of it, the code, comes from 'Unreal,'" the gamer/coder explained. "Unreal" is still one of the most popular online interactive games.

Frank, a coder (software writer) by profession, was virtually creeping through a dimly lit village, apparently in Iraq, his automatic rifle ready to fire, looking for his unit's Objective — some documents on a table.

Suddenly — Blam! Frank's character was dead, shot by an enemy soldier sitting quietly — Frank calls it "camping" in military argot — in the hut.

"This is pretty realistic," said Frank while watching his still-alive online comrades shoot it out.

"You don't get killed here and come back right away. You get one life — you stay dead until the game's over."

It's so realistic, in fact, players even have to take specialized training at a rifle range to carry certain weapons. "America's Army" won't let you role-play as a medic, to use another example, until you've sat through lectures on battlefield medicine.

Frank smiles during one such lecture, on "Clearing the Airway." You see other medical recruits looking bored and twiddling pencils during the talk. Frank makes his character stand up. The sergeant making the presentation barks out, "Sit down, soldier!"

Frank's girlfriend watching nearby chuckles, "Can you imagine? Trying to cheat on a test — for a video game!"

"They make you take parachute training to join the 82nd Airborne," Frank says later as he lobs a smoke grenade in front of his character, who's now creeping along in the sand.

Later, between games, Frank — a bright recent college grad who has absolutely no intentions to join the Army and no illusions about what doing so might entail — says: "This is definitely exposing a lot of kids to the Army. I had one player text-message me, 'Hand me the 203,' which is a grenade launcher. These guys know their weapons."

Each new game starts with the Army Oath on screen. It reads in part, "I will never leave a fallen comrade behind. I will uphold the finest standards of the Army and will be faithful in pursuit of my mission."

Frank lobs a grenade in front of his character, who stands up and double-times it toward his Objective. Blam again. Dead again. But this screen's only a war game. As in real Army war games, Frank's "dead" soldier merely sits on his helmet.

"This part of it is kinda interesting," he says during a pause. "In this game, you either Attack or Defend. The Army doesn't want anyone playing the role of Insurgent, and I can understand that." So can I.

By the way, the game's at www.americasarmy.com.

Reach Bill Mann at News-mann@sonic.net



MAESTRO GEORGE CLEVE founder, and artistic director of the Midsummer Mozart Festival, with his cat, Hobbes, flips through a facsimile score of Mozart's "Jupiter" symphony, which he'll play at the festival.

Mozart strikes chord with conductor

■ The Midsummer Mozart Festival will kick off 30th season Thursday

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

George Cleve is a man with a mission: to turn us on to the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The longtime Berkeley resident has conducted orchestras all over the globe, including the Royal Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Orchestre Nationale de France, and the Chicago Symphony. But his home base is still the Bay Area, where he's the founder and artistic director of the Midsummer Mozart Festival, which kicks off its 30th season Thursday, July 29.

There are many "mostly Mozart" festivals. But this is the only one in the country dedicated exclusively to the great composer. "I originally thought of calling it the 'Merely Mozart' Festival," he says, "but I was afraid it would sound disrespectful."

Why Mozart? Cleve likes to

IF YOU GO

WHAT: The 30th annual Midsummer Mozart Festival, featuring soprano Christina Major and pianists Jon Nakamatsu and Seymour Lipkin.

WHEN/WHERE: July 29: Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, 8 p.m.

July 30: St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, 8 p.m.

July 31: Gundlach Bundschu Winery, Sonoma, 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 1: Le Petit Trianon, San Jose, 7 p.m.

Aug. 5: Villa Montalvo, Saratoga, 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 6: Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, 8 p.m.

Aug. 7: Gundlach Bundschu Winery, Sonoma, 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 8: St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, 7 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$48 premium reserved, \$38 reserved, \$28 general admission. Call the festival office at 415-627-9140 or reserve tickets online throughout Ticket Web. Tickets to the Villa Montalvo programs can also be purchased by calling 408-961-5858.

INFORMATION: 415-627-9140

quote 19th Century conductor Hans Richter, who was once asked, "Who was the greatest composer who ever lived?"

"Well," said Richter, "there's Bach, of course, and Beethoven, and Brahms..." And he went on to list three or four more.

"Why isn't Mozart on the list?" asked the questioner.

"Oh!" said Richter. "I thought you meant 'apart from Mozart!'"

But Cleve is no Johnny one-

note. He also loves Bach, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Gershwin, Porter, and Rodgers & Hart. But in the end, there's no one like Mozart.

"He has the widest emotional palette of any composer I can think of," says Cleve. "He can seamlessly change the atmosphere in two chords and then bring you back to exactly where he wants you to be."

That's what you'd expect from

a guy whose middle name is Wolfgang.

"But I wasn't named after Mozart," he confesses. "I was named after my uncle. And if he was named after anyone, it was probably Goethe, not Mozart."

George Wolfgang Cleve was born in Vienna, Austria. When he was 2, his family moved to Italy. Two years after that, they came to the United States. English is his fourth language, Italian is his third, and German is his second.

His first? Music.

"Apparently, I didn't say a word, not even a syllable, for the first year and a half, and my parents were starting to get concerned. Then, one day, the nurse came rushing out of my bedroom, and my parents were scared something terrible had happened to me. They found me standing in my crib, singing a folk song, 'Kommt ein Vogel geflogen,' — whose theme Mozart used for the last movement of his fifth violin concerto — word for word, from beginning to end."

See MOZART, Page C11

Berkeley author takes it one page at a time

■ Kevin Griffin breathes new life into 12-step recovery process

By Suzanne LaFetra
CORRESPONDENT

BERKELEY — According to the Buddha, the cause of suffering is desire. According to Berkeley author Kevin Griffin, addiction is desire run amok.

Kevin Griffin was an addict. He was addicted to alcohol and a smattering of drugs. He was even addicted to meditation. "What I really wanted to do was transcend all my problems," says Griffin. "Meditation was just another kind of drug." He was attempting to use a spiritual solution to get around his problems.

In his new book, "One Breath at a Time: Buddhism and the Twelve Steps," Griffin explores the two powerful structures that have helped him get clean and sober: He catalogs his deep descent into a world of poverty, drug use, alcoholism, and self-loathing. He was arrested on methedrine possession. He showed up for a meditation retreat hung over. At one point, he abandoned everything — his job, music gig, his apartment — to travel around with a person he calls "a low-budget cult leader."

"Actually, the guy was homeless," he says, telling of the way they bummed around the country doing aura cleansings. For Griffin, it was the beginning of the end. Those three months marked his final days of drinking. "If I

BOOK

"One Breath at a Time: Buddhism and the Twelve Steps" by Kevin Griffin, Rodale Press, 281 pages, \$13.95 Available at local bookstores www.KevinGriffin.com for information about meditation classes and lectures by Kevin Griffin.

could remember what happened, I'd write a book about it," he says.

After he got sober in 1985, Griffin began to see a connection between the 12-step recovery program offered by Alcoholics Anonymous and the Buddhist spiritual path he had long followed. For Griffin, Buddhist teachings offered a way out of the fundamental problem he found with the Twelve Steps.

For many people, the idea of "powerlessness" and the Christian slant to the Twelve Steps is a turn-off. "This powerlessness thing is so negative," says Griffin, addressing a meditation group. "But powerless is not equal to helplessness."

Furthermore, writes Griffin, "Issues of God and faith, of prayer and powerlessness can alienate people who have never had a religious training, or who have rejected their religious upbringing." For Griffin, the solution lay in what he found in Buddhist precepts; that God be substituted by "higher power" or higher self, that god-like form that rests inside the human psyche. "I had to make sense of the Steps for myself," he writes.

See GRIFFIN, Page C11



KEVIN GRIFFIN, who knows what it's like to be poor and addicted to alcohol and drugs, got sober in 1985 and has written a book about how Buddhism and Twelve Steps relate.



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

Farce auditions start Saturday

AUDITIONS for Michael Franks' farce, "Noises Off," of this fall's most theatrical funnies, will start Saturday and Monday at the Costa Civic Theater, 1000 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito.

Director Daren A. wants to hear one-act comic monologues from the script row's auditions will be from noon to 3 p.m. Monologues start at 7 p.m. and include four women and five men, 25-30.

Callbacks are Wednesday, July 28. Rehearsals begin Monday, Aug. 22 and end through Nov. 2. AEA, no pay, no experience necessary.

The Tony Award-winning comedy is a frenetic, farcical look at a theatrical troupe putting on an English farce against incredible odds of forgotten lines, prop work. Well, if you're there, done that — Call 510-524-9132 or enough to get you in.

CAT NIPS A SC

expected stuff happens theater. The other tabby, lost in the Players' Barn Theater across the stage, scene from the three stage during a performance. Neil Simon's "Lost in the Yonkers."

"When did Ma give birthed Bruce Weiner? He's a Louie Krumpholtz, David Abrams and (playing nephews Jay).

The audience's response startled the made a quick stage and the show continued a hitch — or a

"Lost in Yonkers" through Aug. 22. The are not promising of the cameo act. The ball is probably out way looking for a

I GET A KICK YOU: One of my

stories supposedly has an English theater scene of a melodrama for a disgruntled sneak up on his father stage and stab the young man in the back props had forgotten the dagger in the

After frantic actor knew he had some sort of blow to cue the father to his death throes, so a swift kick into his old actor dropped but was also aware of thing more lethal than leather was necessary his agony. Gasping of his throat, he delivered forgettable ad-lib line

"That boot... that croaked as his eyes ward, "that boot was

WEIGHING TALK LIVES: Actors Ensemble Berkeley's final show 47th season — "Edna" "A Delicate Balance" and running Friday's days at 8 p.m. through at Live Oak Theater, tuck Ave. (at Berkeley) Pulitzer Prize-winner directed by Mikel C

The story: A couple marriage is floundering, ready burdened by live-in alcoholic sister by their daughter, her fourth marriage, couple of best friends mysteriously terrible perately seeking help

Can Albee get man, as he weaves magic of imagination, tizes the precarious between love and despair

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ing supplement to The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, July 23, 2004

Section D

WE VAN SICKLE
Down the Road

an auto
stry amidst
precedented
ssance era

MOTOR MATTERS

When automakers began
cars and compact trucks
back in the 1950s, and
long for Honda, Nis-
Toyota to make a signifi-
cant here. Now come the
and it might take them
of the time it took the
for their products to be-
stream.

are only three Korean
the U.S. market, Hyundai,
to a much lesser extent
Daewoo is the easiest to
because it is almost
as a brand in the U.S.
When Daewoo assets
General Motors
of the Korean manu-
factures, but didn't buy the
ation and sales organi-

ous result was that Dae-
ers could no longer get
technical support
was once "the mother
Most are now out of
but that doesn't mean
completely gone. Now
descendant of the Dae-
the Chevrolet Aveo
not expect to see many
products being mar-
success (and threat)
from Hyundai and Kia.
Just how fast the Korean
city has developed, note
lesson. Established

ROAD, Page D2



A SEATING CONFIGURATION allows for 8 inches of movement to provide extra cargo space when needed in the 2005 Chevy Equinox.

MOTOR MATTERS

Plenty of leg-stretching room in Chevy's '05 Equinox

MOTOR MATTERS

The newest, 2005 small sport utility vehicle happens to be the roomiest of compact SUVs on the market. The all-new Chevy Equinox is bigger than it looks.

The Equinox looks like an SUV on the outside and offers the functionality of an SUV on the inside, but under its skin, the Equinox is built on a car-based platform. The Equinox would not be the most ideal vehicle for off-roading, since it doesn't feature 4WD Hi or Lo, but Chevy does offer all-wheel drive models for sure-footed traction.

An impressive characteristic of the Equinox is its spaciousness. It seems to me that Chevy paid lots of attention to making the second row occupants as comfortable as possible. I think anyone would be impressed with the extraordinary leg-, shoulder-, and headroom in the Equinox.

The exceptional roominess comes from the Multi-Flex rear-seating configuration, which allows the rear seat 8 inches of travel fore and aft. When the Multi-Flex seat is pushed back, passengers get more room.

CONNIE KEANE
Keane on Wheels

When the Multi-Flex seat is pushed forward, the Equinox can accommodate plenty of cargo. The Multi-Flex seats have a 60/40 split-fold design and also have two recline positions, allowing for relaxation on the long drives.

My tester was the front-wheel drive Equinox LT with a base price of \$22,710. The LT featured as stan-

dard equipment 16-inch alloy wheels and tires, fog lamps, luggage rack, traction control, air conditioning, plus power windows and door locks.

The Equinox tester was loaded with \$2,710 worth of optional equipment, including a package that featured a six-way power driver's seat, leather-wrapped steering wheel, tinted glass, auto-dimming rearview mirror with compass and temperature readouts, floor mats and cruise control.

I thought this was an affordable, optional package, priced at \$550.

which gave the LT a finished presentation. However, the single optional feature on the Equinox that drew the most comments from friends — and passersby — was the exterior color.

Chevrolet offers a premium paint called Laser Blue Metallic that is a knockout on this compact SUV. The optional paint treatment is very affordably priced at \$165. I received countless positive remarks about the color of the Equinox during my week with the vehicle. In fact, the

See KEANE, Page D2

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Bill Nelson Discount -\$4,430 • V8 Engine
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GM Owner Loyalty Rebate -\$4,000 • Power Group
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Net Cost \$18,995



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MSRP \$36,335 • LS Package
Bill Nelson Discount -\$5,748
Sale Price \$30,587 • 3rd Row Seating
GM Owner Loyalty Rebate -\$5,000 • Power Seat

\$25,587



1 @ this price #21507/310762

2003 SILVERADO EXT. CAB Z71

MSRP \$36,825 • LT Package
Bill Nelson Discount -\$5,950 • Leather
Sale Price \$30,875 • In Dash
GM Owner Loyalty Rebate -\$4,000 • CD Changer
• So Much More

Net Cost \$26,875



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Loaded Z71 Package

2004 COLORADO EXT. CAB

MSRP \$20,565 • LS Package
Bill Nelson Discount -\$2,690 • Air Conditioning
Sale Price \$17,875
GM Owner Loyalty Rebate -\$3,000

\$14,875



1 @ this price #21514/216368

2004 TAHOE Z71

MSRP \$44,110 • Z71 Package
Bill Nelson Discount -\$6,613 • In Dash
Sale Price \$37,497 • CD Changer
GM Owner Loyalty Rebate -\$5,000 • Leather
• Much More

Net Cost \$32,497



1 @ this price #21246/220955

2004 MONTE CARLO SS

MSRP \$25,575 • Sport Appearance
Bill Nelson Discount -\$3,100 Package
Sale Price \$22,475 • CD w/200 Watt
GM Owner Loyalty Rebate -\$4,000 System
• Race Inspired Spoiler

\$18,475



1 @ this price #21485/449961

2004 IMPALA

MSRP \$22,395 • Automatic
Bill Nelson Discount -\$2,720 • Power Group
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GM Owner Loyalty Rebate -\$4,000

Net Cost \$15,675



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The new language of auto design

MOTOR MATTERS

What do California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and bling-bling have to do with automotive design? Turns out a lot.

A panel of top auto designers recently delivered a vocabulary lesson to the Automotive Press Association, a Detroit organization of automotive journalists, on words they use daily in their studios.

Arnold and bling were among them.

Ralph Gilles, designer for the Chrysler 300, said two words came up in reference to 300: noble and bling.

Freeman Thomas, one of Chrysler's top designers, instructed Gilles that he wanted the upcoming 300 to be "noble," having unique proportions, taller than other cars with chair-height seating.

In his research, Gilles found examples that fit the Webster's dictionary definition of noble ("of the privilege class holding a hereditary title" and "exalted") in Chrysler's history books with the 1955 300C, nicknamed "the banker's muscle car" for its understated appearance during an audacious styling period.

"Then we were told the 300 has bling," Gilles said. Indeed, his design team focused on the car's jew-

MICHELLE KREBS
She's Freewheeling

elry — the grille, headlamps, chrome handles.

Potential buyers, like the rapper 50 Cent, said they wanted the 300 for its bling, and then added more bling — showy automotive jewelry like overstated chrome wheels.

Tom Peters, designer of the 2005 Chevrolet Corvette, said he uses two words frequently: tension and muscular organic. "Tension is a fundamental element of great design," he said.

He describes it as an archer drawing back his bow or aircraft cutting through the air to show strength, power and direction.

Indeed, aircraft inspired his design for the upcoming Corvette, as it did GM's design of a number of new Cadillacs, including the XLR roadster and the Evoq and Sixteen concepts.

Peters describes muscular organic — that's where Arnold comes in — as a car surface that is sculptural, like the human form as exemplified by the overbuilt body of former bodybuilder Schwarzeneg-

ger. A Ferrari racecar is another example.

So, too, is the Aston Martin Vanquish and the more recent Buick Velite concept, unveiled at the New York auto show in April. "It exudes, power, extreme capability, passion and sexiness," said Peters.

For Chrysler designer Mark Trosle, gesture is a daily-used word. It is a stance or look intended to create a feeling or stimulate an emotion.

Hotrods — with their big tires in back, smaller ones in front and low height — are examples of an athletic gesture.

Likewise, the 1959 Cadillac, with its tapered back and high-placed fins, has a gesture that suggests movement while standing still.

Kip Wasenko, the genius behind Cadillac's new, edgy styling scheme, said attitude is critical for him. "Attitude combines everything to create an overall personality — a personality that can be noble, playful, intimidating."

The Cadillac Escalade is an example of a vehicle with attitude, one that is favored by the celebrity athlete crowd, which adds bling for individualized expression.

Wasenko points out that an American attitude is returning to car



CHRYSLER'S 300C sedan is part of a new breed of auto designs, touting "bling," athletic strength.

design, as evidenced by the Chrysler 300, the upcoming Ford Mustang, as well as Cadillacs.

"American style used to mean luxury, and then there was a shift to European luxury ... but American designers are challenging that now."

Who creates attitude? "We, the designers, do," said Wasenko.

And to get executives, and eventually the public to buy into that attitude, Brian Nielander, Chrysler designer of the ME412 supercar

concept on this year's auto show circuit, requires them to cheat — his word for the day.

"When a designer is selling a sketch to management, they have to do something flashy and more interesting to make it stand out," he said.

He did just that by situating the sketch of his silver ME412 on an orange background to make it stand out during the design review.

Designers also cheat by exaggerating certain design elements

like the proportions, the extremely exaggerated lines of the Chrysler Chronos concept, designed years ago or, more recently, the Cadillac Sixteen — or the ride height.

In the case of the Chrysler ME412, as concepts, design new side appears the side windows under — "gangster-like proportions," noted Nielander.

Dangling plastic flap needs to be replaced

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Q I just knocked off the plastic flap that hangs down beneath the front of my car. It was dangling precariously so I removed it the rest of the way.

I've been told I must reinstall it so the car won't overheat. So far I haven't noticed a problem, although it has only been a few days. Is this true?

Jason Alexander, Seattle

A You really should repair or renew the air dam and reinstall it.

Many newer cars and trucks have very small or no grille openings to provide air-

BRAD BERGHOLDT
Auto QnA

flow for the radiator and air conditioning condenser.

Instead they rely on an air dam beneath the vehicle nose to divert airflow upward and through these heat-exchanging devices.

You may not yet have encountered a high-load, moderate-to-high-speed situation where the air dam is effective and needed.

At low speed, the radiator/condenser fan(s) provide the necessary airflow.

Depending on the mounting method and the degree of damage, it may be possible to reinstall the original air dam using fender washers (with small center holes and a large outside diameter) to bridge torn-away fastener holes.

Sometimes it's difficult to remember the typical speed bump and parking stop were designed for foot-off-the-ground Galaxies and Impalas, rather than today's aerodynamic ground huggers.

See Q AND A, Page D5

Keane

FROM PAGE D1

first words out of my mouth when the Equinox was delivered to my office were, "Great color."

Equinox has a towing capacity of 3,500 pounds and is powered by a 3.4-liter V6 engine. It produces 185 horsepower at 5,200 rpm and 210 pounds-foot of torque at 3,800 rpm. The engine is mated to a five-speed automatic transmission.

GM reports that the Equinox has been engineered to deliver exceptional fuel economy on the front-wheel drive model, as well as the all-wheel drive model. The FWD and AWD versions achieve the same EPA ratings: 19 miles per gallon city and 25 mpg highway.

The Equinox is offered in four models: LS FWD, LT FWD, LS AWD and LT AWD. Starting prices for these models begin at

\$20,995 and range up to \$24,335.

GM says the Chevy Equinox has been built to perform well in crash tests that the federal government may soon conduct on the 2005 vehicle.

Engineers also built this SUV to protect the occupants of a car should the Equinox

be involved in a collision with a smaller vehicle. Chevrolet reports the Equinox has a car-height bumper that should help minimize injuries in low speed impacts.

The Equinox was built to bring balance to the SUV segment. It has the comforts of a sedan and the functionality of an SUV.

CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT

Vehicle Type	Five-passenger FWD compact SUV
Suggested Retail	\$22,710
Price as Tested	\$25,985
Engine Type	OHV 3.4-liter V6 w/MPFI
Horsepower	185 @ 5,200 rpm
Torque	210 @ 3,800 rpm
Transmission	Five-speed automatic
Wheelbase	113 inches
Height	67 inches
Curb Weight	3,660 pounds
Fuel Capacity	17 gallons
Mileage	19 city/25 highway

Road

FROM PAGE D1

this brief history lesson. Established in 1944, Kia started out making bicycle parts by hand. By 1952, it rolled out its first motorcycle. Three-wheel trucks came next, and by 1971, Kia was building a four-wheel truck called, believe it or not, the Titan. (Note: In 2004, Nissan launched its full-size pickup, the Titan).

Kia produced Korea's first gasoline engine in 1973 and, in 1974, Korea's first passenger car. In 1986, under an equity partnership with Ford Motor Company, Kia began building the Pride, or Festiva, small car.

In 1992, Kia established its U.S. subsidiary, Kia Motors America, and in 1994 launched its first model, the Sephia compact sedan, and a year later, the Sportage SUV. For five years, Kia was a two-model franchise in the U.S. market. Then came the Rio, Spectra, Sedona, Optima, Sorento, and Amanti. And all of that happened in spite of insolvency and receivership in 1997. The takeover of Kia by Hyundai marked the beginning of a rapid turnaround.

By 1999, Kia was once again profitable and has been ever since. And once again to illustrate rapid growth, total Kia sales have increased from a meager 12,000 in 1994 to 237,000 in 2003.

Hyundai sold its first car, the subcompact Excel model, in the U.S. in 1986. At the time, few Americans had ever heard of Hyundai or its products. The timing of Hyundai's entry into the U.S. market was ideal. Customer response was immediate; In 1987, Hyundai sales soared, reaching a record 263,610 units.

Hyundai took a major step to becoming a full-line automotive importer/distributor in 1989 with the introduction of its mid-size sedan, the Sonata. Hyundai's third entry into the U.S. market was the sporty Scoupe, introduced in the summer of 1990 as a 1991 model. In 1995, after 10 years in the U.S. market, the Excel was replaced by the all-new subcompact Accent. The compact Elantra sedan debuted in 1991 as a 1992 model, and in 1997 Hyundai replaced the Scoupe with the Tiburon sporty coupe.

In the fall of 2000, Hyundai Motor America added two new vehicles to its lineup: the Santa Fe sport utility vehicle and the XG300 sedan. The Santa Fe is a car-based crossover utility vehicle (XUV) that provides car-like ride and handling with the seating position and utility of a sport utility vehicle.

The XG300 was a hit, selling well above the projected numbers. For 2002, the engine displacement of the XG300 moved from 3.0 liters up to 3.5 liters resulting in the name change from XG300 to XG350.

At first, the quality of early Korean autos was so poor that a very low price was the only way to generate sales. That all changed when both automakers announced their new warranty coverage — something that set the whole auto industry on its ear.

With a new powertrain warranty of 10 years and 100,000 miles, Hyundai and Kia started to get increased attention, but most industry observers thought it was a formula for disaster. Logic dictated that extending

the warranty on a product with poor quality would just increase warranty cost, but that didn't happen.

Instead, both Hyundai and Kia dramatically improved their quality as the new warranty coverage went into effect. The cost of the new warranty didn't have the devastating effect that many predicted, and sales have improved as both brands continue to get more respect.

Now smart buyers are thinking, "buy a Hyundai or Kia now, save thousands, drive it for 10 years, throw it away, and buy another one."

Not a bad ownership philosophy if all you want and need from a car is transportation.

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Buick Special: Happy ending to a love story

MOTOR MATTERS
A month before Gary was born in April 1941, a Buick Special rolled out of the factory. The car was a maroon-colored car was a Buick Special Model 46S with the SE option. It meant that a pair of two-carburetor carburetors atop the 121-cubic-inch, straight-eight overhead valve engine fed fuel to develop 125 horsepower. The base price for the sleek, 3,700-pound Buick was \$1,495. The car was shipped to R.I. Motor Sales (a Buick dealer/GMC dealership) in Pawtucket, R.I. It was sold to a local man named Rose Heumann, 35, a part-time car collector. He saw Heumann drive the Buick in her then 16-year-old Buick.

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

During the 1970s, Baseley was a service manager at the garage and occasionally would see the 1941 Buick come in for regular maintenance and service. His desire for the car would always be rekindled during those visits.

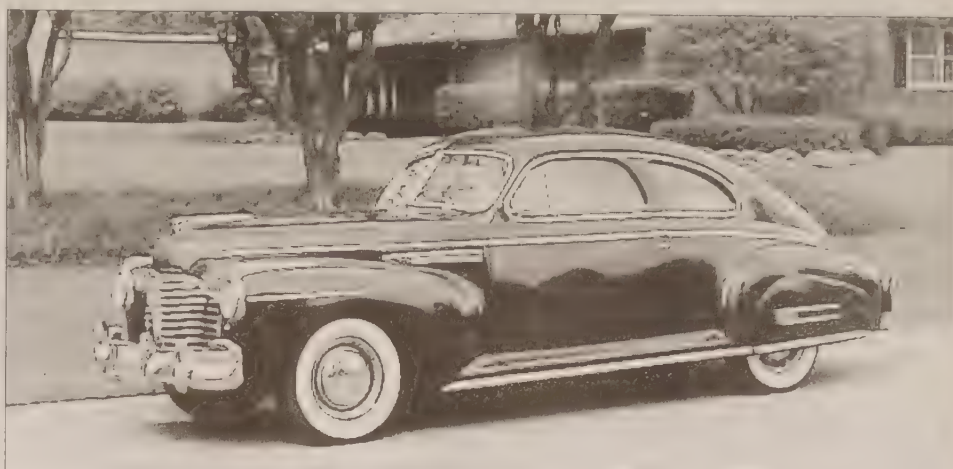
"For nearly 40 years I continued to attempt to buy the car and he continued to make the same promise," a persistent Baseley says. Upon the dealer's death, his stepson inherited the Buick and told me his stepfather had asked him to make the same promise to me.

"About two years later he called to offer the car to me. We struck a deal and the car was finally mine," Baseley says. The odometer had recorded 24,800 miles at that time.

After pushing the accelerator pedal to the floor to activate the engine, he drove his long-sought prize home on its cushy 121-inch wheelbase supported by 6.50x16-inch tires dressed up with wide white sidewalls.

The original spare tire was in the trunk, nestled horizontally beneath a shelf, typical of many pre-war General Motors cars.

"It runs beautifully," he says. The Buick has an underseat heater with



THIS 1941 BUICK Special Sedanet remains in excellent condition. Its present owner, to be on the safe side, has replaced everything electrical in the engine compartment, as well as installed new brakes.

two fans, one for the heater and the other for the windshield defroster.

Besides a cowl ventilator that can be opened to draw in fresh air, the front seat passenger also has a control to open an under-dash-vent to bring in outside air.

The car came equipped from the factory 63 years ago with a stainless exhaust tip, bumper wings and fender skirts decorated with chrome spears.

Turn signals were installed at the factory with the operating lever on the right side of the steering col-

umn. Baseley says sharp-eyed motorists behind may see tiny arrows, when they are flashing, embedded in each taillight lens.

Surprisingly, the otherwise well-appointed Buick has no radio. The Special Sedanet was a very popular model for Buick with a total of 88,148 being manufactured.

Baseley says the broadcloth upholstery, like everything else on the car, is in excellent condition. "It has had some paint touch-up and was professionally detailed but never repainted or restored," he says.

To be on the safe side, he has replaced everything electrical in the engine compartment, as well as installed new brakes.

A replacement for the long, narrow battery which Buick favored in that era is easily found in farm equipment stores, Baseley has discovered.

The long engine is easy to work on since the engine hood can be opened from either side. Including the optional oil filter, each oil change consumes 7 quarts.

Of his Buick, Baseley says, "It's

a solid automobile. I'm not afraid of it. I try to take it to local cruise nights and car shows where it gets more than its share of attention."

"My love affair with my 1941 Buick started in 1957." And this love story has a happy ending.

For your car to become the subject of the Classic Classics column, send a photo (frontal 3/4 view) plus brief details and phone number to: Vern Parker, 2221 Abbottsford Drive, Vienna, VA 22181.

Only photos of good quality will be considered.

Suzuki launches new boulevard line of cruisers

MOTOR MATTERS
Older than 40 who has passed the performance offered by sport bikes, but less enthralled with the level, is probably more than move into another genre of travel.

has produced and sold performance motorcycles for 40 years, only entering the motorcycle market in 1980s, through the guidance of American-based design

er Suzuki cruiser combination design with modernizing features, such as cooling and shaft drive, was introduced 700.

under 1400 followed in the Marauder 800 entering scene 10 years later. Suzuki LC 1500 "bulked" Suzuki cruising stable with successful Volusia model becoming the company's best-selling "Bagger" se-

currently owns 30 per cent to 900cc cruising segment.

downs a new era for the performance offerings from Suzuki Boulevard series of cruisers, from the single-cylinder replaces the Savage, to the M50, with the S50, S83, C50 positioned in between.

ARV VOSS
2-Wheeling Today

The numerical designations signify cubic inches — a departure from the preceding practice of cc displacement identification.

The new alpha identification has been adopted to make more distinct differentiations between models. "S" is assigned to equate stylishness; "C" is applied to more classic models; and the "M" preface connotes muscle. A "T" suffix will be used for the "C" models (C50T and C90T) for a greater touring orientation.

All motorcycles in the cruiser lineup will be a part of the new Boulevard family, with more new models planned in the not-too-distant future. These bikes will be supported by a complete line of Boulevard accessories and apparel, the likes of which have never been offered by Suzuki before.

Cruising bike consumers spend on the average between \$501 and \$5,000 in a 12-month period, with 66 percent of them spending half or more of that amount on accessories and wearables produced by their motorcycle's manufacturer.

Suzuki is committed to capturing a larger share of this market, and plans to hit the ground — or boulevard — running with a full-en-



thusiast media blitz, and an event marketing campaign titled "Choose Your Boulevard," that will tie in with the launch of the Boulevard cruisers.

At a recent press ride of the new Boulevard models held in conjunction with the dealer meeting in Las Vegas, I was able to sample all but the S50 and M50 (the latter won't become available until 2005). I spent a lot of time on the C50 and C90, which appealed to my nostalgic taste and riding style.

The first Boulevard models are slated to hit showrooms in late summer of this year.

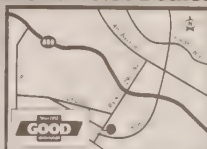
My 2005 Suzuki Boulevard C90 (1500cc) test bike was sprayed in a two-tone Black and Silver finish

See 2-WHEELING, Page D5

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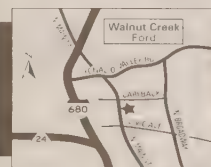
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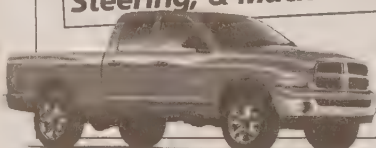
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'04 Ford F150 Heritage

Auto, Tow Group, Cassette, & Much More!

MSRP \$21,715
Dealer Disc. -3,725
Factory Rebate -3,000
FMCC Bonus Cash* -1,000

NET COST TO YOU:
\$13,990

1 at this price. ID A70790.



Ford

'04 Ford F-150 XLT SuperCab

Auto, 5.4 V8, A/C, All Power, 6-Disc CD, Alloys, & Much More!

MSRP \$30,615
Dealer Disc. -5,125
Factory Rebate -2,500
FMCC Bonus Cash* -1,000

NET COST TO YOU:
\$21,990

2 at this price. IDs A15901, A15902



Ford

'04 Ford Freestar SE

Rear A/C, CD/Cassette, P/W, P/L, Privacy Glass, & Much More!

MSRP \$27,860
Dealer Disc. -4,870
Factory Rebate -5,000
FMCC Bonus Cash* -1,000

NET COST TO YOU:
\$16,990

2 at this price. IDs A42281, A63322.



Ford

'04 Ford Excursion XLT

Front & Rear Air, P/W, P/L, P/S, CD, Alloys, & Much More!

MSRP \$39,055
Dealer Disc. -7,065
Factory Rebate -3,000
Bonus Cash* -1,000

NET COST TO YOU:
\$27,990

2 at this price. IDs A87841, A87842

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Nonsmk. 925-698-1740

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PLEASANTON RM/2w/Dep
Pvt. ba. Loc. \$700+Dep
Nonsmk. 925-827-9235

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/smking. 925-354-0032

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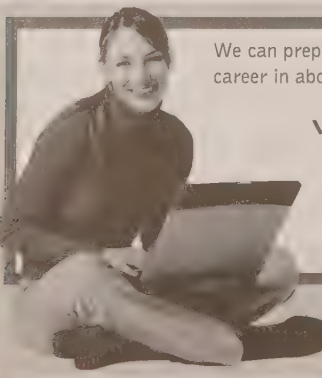
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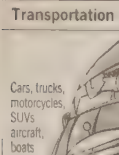
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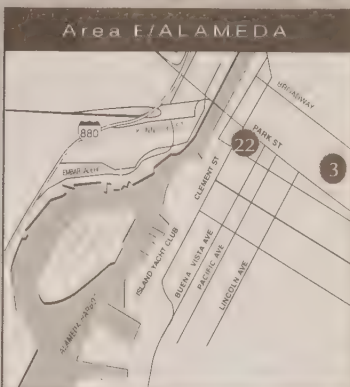
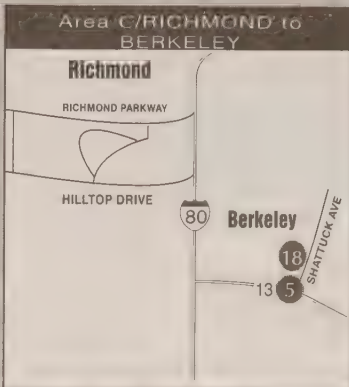
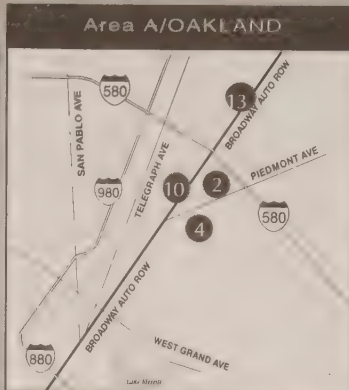
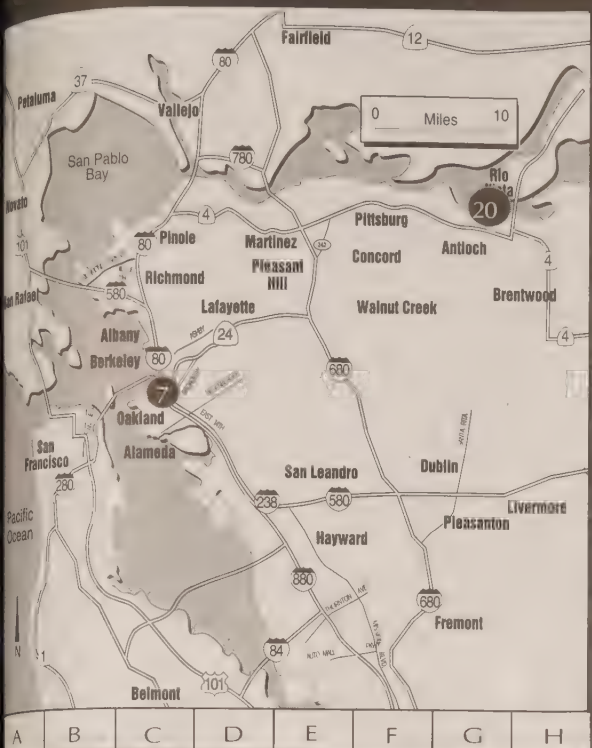
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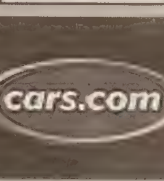
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FOR GREGG LEAVITT created two steel and copper tree sculptures, left, to draw attention to Liz and Michael Kalogris' home in Devault, Pa. A robin, right, has made its nest in Gregg Leavitt's tree.

Modern sculpture replaces the garden gnome for lawn art

DENISE COWIE

PHILADELPHIA — A robin, insect-like in its perch along a tree branch in front of a house off the Great Valley, Pa., looks like a garden gnome. But the tree is not a garden.

One trunk seems to grow out of the corner of the porch, its limbs curling upward to support the roof. Leaves of many wondrous kinds unknown in nature adorn these branches, which stretch maybe 30 feet into the sky and about 25 feet out from the house.

If you look closely, you can glimpse faces in the lines of the bark. And there's a hint of Edward Gorey in the way the trees' roots reach out to wrap around huge boulders like tentacles, as if they've been grow-

ing here for eons. Yet the robin isn't the only one who finds them lifelike. "Visitors often think they are real trees when they turn into the driveway," says Liz Kalogris, who describes the family property as an emerging sculpture garden. It's not until guests get closer to the tree sculptures that they realize they are looking at what Leavitt calls "jewelry for the house."

It's an apt description. There's a delicacy to Leavitt's creations that almost belies the fact that they're hammered out of hot metal using, for the most part, traditional blacksmithing techniques. But there's obvious strength, too.

"I want this to be really powerful, but in a delicate, thought-out man-

ner," Leavitt, 57, said as the sculptures were still under construction in the hangarlike studio near Boyertown, Pa. that he shares with his daughter and fellow sculptor, Camille, 30. "Metal can have sinewy qualities but still be strong."

It's his ability to transform metal into the fluid form of living things, from flowers and leaves to dragonflies and seedpods, that captures the imagination of gardeners. Fifty or more of his gates, arches, fountains and benches grace gardens throughout the Pennsylvania region.

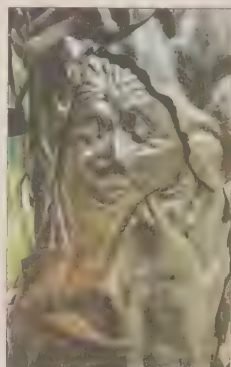
Some of these horticulturally inspired pieces might be familiar to visitors to the Philadelphia Flower Show, where Leavitt's gates and arches are often featured in major exhibits before going to their ultimate homes.

Another of their pieces featuring flowers and animals is "Along the Susquehanna," a 10-foot-tall wall grille that hangs in the garden of the governor's mansion in Harrisburg, Pa.

But the tree sculptures are on a different scale. They had what might be called their official unveiling recently, when the Kalogrises hosted an art exhibit called "Sticks and Stones: The Making of a Sculpture Garden." Contemporary works by a variety of artists were displayed throughout their woodland garden for several days of events.

The trees, though, have been on the site since October, which has given Liz Kalogris the opportunity to

See **SCULPTURES**, Page 2



A DETAIL IN ONE of the steel and copper tree sculptures in front of Liz and Michael Kalogris' home in Devault, Pa.

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Sculptures

FROM PAGE 1

experience them through a couple of seasons.

"When the (real) leaves fall, they land in a little crook (of a sculpture branch) and sit there — it's really cool," she says. "And when it rains, they glisten."

"I love the trees. They make me think 'Middle Earth.'"

The project started with a door problem. When the couple installed a glass sliding door for easy access from the kitchen to the herb garden in the front yard, visitors started using that door instead of the official entrance. How could they direct traffic back to the front door?

"Then I heard about Greg," says Liz Kalogris, and the idea of a tree sculpture "supporting" the porch by the front door evolved. It was commissioned in 2002.

Over the next couple of years, the Kalogrises, with the help of contractor Larry Grace, rerouted the driveway and reconfigured much of their front yard to accommodate ponds, a waterfall, gardens, sitting areas, and pieces of sculpture.

Along the way, a second tree sculpture was commissioned, and the Kalogrises' carpenter constructed a replica of their porch in Leavitt's vast studio, so the tree limbs could be molded to fit precisely around it.

Even with regular help from a friend, Stewart Rose of Media, the sculptures took well over a year for Leavitt to complete. He often worked in a safety harness, 20 feet in the air with welding torches, hammers and hot metal. At one point, perched high on a tree's inner structure — curved

columns of steel welded together for strength in the same way the Eiffel Tower is constructed — he was working on two different styles for the outer bark. But the results ultimately didn't please him.

"It just wasn't right for my artistic sensibility," he says. So although it meant two months' work was lost, he covered what he'd done with bark made from copper in the repousse style, which means it's hand-hammered, just like the Statue of Liberty.

"Art," he says, "sometimes just takes on a life of its own, and one aspect that is created within it can give you the answer for something else. ... That sense of discovery is an important part of this."

There's a different sense of discovery, too, for anyone viewing the sculptures — the faces of 21 wood spirits etched into the bark. Some are the images of real people: Camille's face is here, touched by a tendril of the poison ivy vine she forged in metal to grow down one side of the tree.

Why this dreaded vine? "I like poison ivy," says Liz Kalogris, almost apologetically. "It's evil, but it's also beautiful."

When the trees were finished, they had to be dismantled so they would fit on a trailer for shipment from Boyertown to Great Valley, along with the massive boulders that are wrapped by the roots. All the dismembered pieces were carefully numbered, so they would go back together exactly. When the sculptures reached the Kalogrises' property, installation of the branches and leaves took two more months.

But it's not the largest sculpture Leavitt has worked on. A few years ago, he and Camille created

a 60-foot arch of vines and animals for the east gate of Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.

Creating art using the techniques of traditional blacksmithing may be a laborious undertaking, but it's one Greg Leavitt loves. He got into it by accident 32 years ago in Colorado, where he studied business at the University of Denver, when he met some metal sculptors in Aspen.

It changed his life. "I saw the forging process, and thought, 'I just have to do that,'" he recalls. Although he had no formal art training, he dropped everything and took up metal artistry.

His timing was good. In the late '60s, he says, blacksmithing was almost an archaic art form, many of the techniques all but lost. But it was on the cusp of a revival. In 1973, the Artist-Blacksmiths Association of North America was formed with the goal of sharing information. Leavitt joined the following year, when he moved to Pennsylvania, and never considered doing anything else.

He eventually became known for gates. Today, Leavitt's garden gates sell for a minimum of \$10,000; his entrance gates cost a minimum of \$75,000.

"I still wake up at 3 or 4 in the morning, thinking about what you can do with this process, which is really wonderful," Leavitt says. "I can't imagine being a sculptor in any other medium."



SCULPTOR GREG LEAVITT creates trees out of iron, steel and copper in his studio, left, and one of his creations in his studio in Boyertown, Pa., in August 2003, above.

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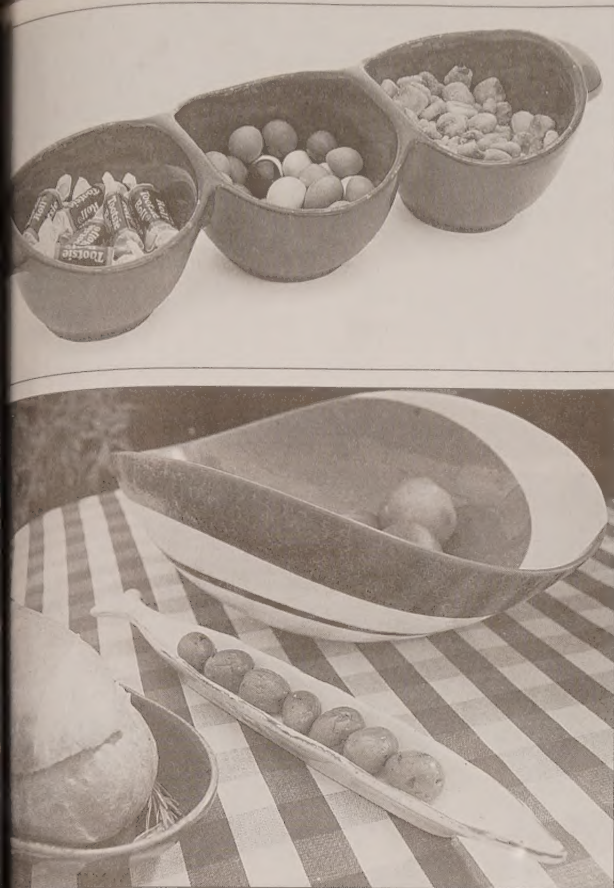
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JOHN MUTRUX/KANSAS CITY STAR

Old Glory meets Old World tableware

BY STACY DOWNS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The palette of popular Tuscan landscape-inspired pottery has journeyed to America. Colors now include - you've guessed it - red, white and blue.

The Italian tableware importer Vietri is best known for its starring role in making the rustic Old World style all the rage with its sturdy, distressed-edge terra cotta, sage and sunny yellow ceramic pitchers, plates and canisters.

When the company introduced dishes and serving pieces in U.S. flag colors this year, it also ventured into a more contemporary look and a different material. Its Spirale Blu line of platters and bowls, with opaque spiral bands of blue and white, are made of Murano glass.

"It's a medium we hadn't experimented much with," says Cara Fratto, a Vietri spokeswoman. "It appeals to a younger crowd. Glass dishes are becoming the next big thing because they're so functional."

Vietri, based in Hillsborough, N.C., contracts with about 40 independent Italian factories to produce its ceramic and Murano glass pieces. The glass style, made on the Italian island of Murano, can withstand heat from the dishwasher and the microwave — unlike ceramics that eventually break apart in the microwave.

Murano glass pieces are made on a pottery wheel. One person holds a chunk of glass material in place while another worker shapes it over a mold. (Only one potter is

typically needed for ceramic pieces.) Gravel or sand on the mold becomes part of the piece, creating lines and texture.

Nicolette Leiby, casual dinnerware buyer for Halls in Kansas City, says Murano glass tableware is slowly catching on with customers.

Because of their shiny appearance and rippled texture, the glass dishes are often mistaken for art glass. Shoppers often do not realize how durable they are. But recently people have started buying the Spirale Blu serving bowls at Halls.

"They're striking, and they brighten things up," Leiby says. "It's a departure for Vietri into a cleaner look. We're making that change ourselves (at the store), getting away from heavy pottery."

Maida Hulston of Kansas City says she was surprised by Vietri's expansion to include a more American aesthetic. Before her recent wedding, she registered for the sage, yellow and terra-cotta plates because they could be used formally or informally. But she's also a fan of Old World chic.

"I went for Vietri," she says, "because they look Italian."

Vietri showed off its new Fourth of July style at this spring's International Home Furnishings Market in High Point, N.C. Blue and white Spirale Blu dishes were displayed with new pieces from its

line of red tableware, called Rosso Vecchio.

New red pieces include a baguette plate and a three-bowl snack server. The line still evokes Vietri's signature Tuscan style with its rubbed-edge pieces - a look that was inspired by traditional peasant pottery made in the 1300s and used through the 1800s.

In the same rustic fashion, the company created white fish-shaped plates this year. The Pesce Bianco line includes an olive boat and other pieces.

"Glass dishes are becoming the next big thing because they're so functional."

— Cara Fratto, Vietri spokeswoman

Fratto says the three colors, shapes and materials of the Spirale Blu, Rosso Vecchio and Pesce Bianco were made to mix and match with one another.

"It takes familiar elements but creates a unique look," she says.

See more: New items are available online at www.vietri.com.

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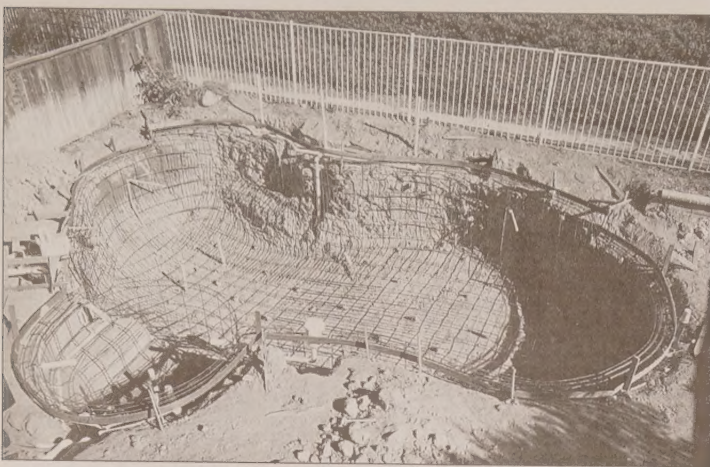
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CHARMETIVE/POOL

STARTING FROM the top left and going clockwise: **Photo 1:** With the holes dug for the Lees' swimming pool and spa and the steel form in place at their Aliso Viejo, Calif., home, it's time for the sprayed. **Photo 2:** Swan Pools' workers spray and smooth gunite. **Photo 3:** Companies that do swimming-pool construction must be licensed as swimming-pool specialty contractors. Construction at the Lees' family home. **Photo 4:** Workers progress to tile and brick work, a low wall and a concrete walk at the Lees' swimming pool and spa being built at their Aliso Viejo, Calif., home.

A big splash of reality

BY NICK HARDER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

SANTA ANA, Calif. — "We love our swimming pool now, but with all the problems and expense we went through to have it built, people should know about these things."

So says Candy Lee, who, with her husband, Michael, had a swimming pool and in-ground spa

built in their back yard.

It wasn't that they got taken by a swimming pool construction company, but they did encounter complications during construction that added \$8,000 to the cost and extended construction time to five months. Without complications, standard pool projects typically take three months from the start of excavation.

The pool had been a dream since the Lees bought the home new in 1996. It is a two-story tract home in the Carmel development in Aliso Viejo, Calif.

"We chose this exact house because of the lot," Candy said. "The yard was big enough to build a pool." The Lees' back yard measures about 45 feet wide by 30 feet deep.

They couldn't afford a pool when they moved into their home, but they began to collect pictures and information about the kind of

pool-and-spa combination they liked. About two years ago they began to consider pool builders.

"We wanted to get at least three bids," Candy said. Of the three pool companies they had bid, the Lees chose Swan Pools.

"Theirs wasn't the lowest or the highest bid," Michael said, "but we felt it was a company that had a lot of experience building pools, and they said they could do things for us that the others couldn't."

One of those things that made a difference to the Lees was where the

pool equipment would be located.

"The other companies said they would have to put it in the back yard," Michael said, "but we didn't want it there. Swan said they could locate it on the side of the house. That allowed us to build a barbecue in the back yard."

At this point, it

But construction took other three months taken up working of the pool and spa permits from the city.

See POOL

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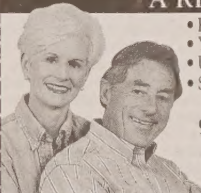
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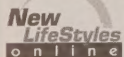
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Spirituality: There are things in life that touch our souls. Aegis observes many religious holidays – from decorations throughout the community to decorations in residents' apartments.

Humor: Laughter shakes us up and turns us around, makes us feel good. Aegis has frequent entertainers and parties for the entire community to tickle our funny bones and let us kick up our heels.

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